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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

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To: Kansas Vaccines for Children Providers

From: Sue Bowden, RN, BS,
Director, Kansas Immunization Program

Re: **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Distribution**

Seasonal influenza vaccine is recommended by the ACIP for all infants, children and adolescents ages 6 months through 18 years of age. CDC has recommended that providers begin administering seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as it becomes available to expedite the protection afforded by the vaccine and to prepare for the arrival of novel H1N1 influenza vaccine. As a result, the Kansas Immunization Program will distribute available vaccine as early as August this year.

This communication is to provide you with information about seasonal influenza vaccine ordering and distribution processes for the 2009-10 influenza season. Guidance is based on two underlying assumptions about seasonal flu vaccine distribution: (1) influenza vaccine products will arrive at McKesson in waves as they have in the past, with 2-4 waves for each product; and (2) the first waves will begin between mid August and early September and final waves will reach McKesson by early November. Earlier this year, the KIP pre-booked influenza vaccine in amounts that were an increase in the number of doses administered by VFC providers during the 2008-09 flu season. Those numbers are the "flu vaccine bank account" against which we can place provider orders once the vaccine is in physical inventory at McKesson. CDC will monitor our allocation and report the daily balance to our program based on McKesson available inventory. If a provider order is within the allocation balance, it is submitted to McKesson for distribution. If a vaccine type is out of stock at McKesson, the order is placed on hold until additional waves of product arrive at the distribution center.

The timeframe for filling and shipping seasonal flu vaccine orders is 3-4 business days from the time it is submitted by the KIP, similar to the timeframe for the 08-09 season. McKesson will use a separate pick/pack/ship line for flu vaccine orders to accomplish influenza vaccine distribution as quickly as possible in response to provider orders received from state immunization programs. This means that flu vaccines will typically arrive separately from other vaccines, even if flu and non-flu vaccines are ordered at the same time. Same-day rush flu orders will not be possible.

This year, the KIP will begin filling provider seasonal influenza vaccine orders as soon as product becomes available at McKesson and CDC has added the inventory to the ordering software system VACMAN.

To assist you in your plans for the 2009-10 season, the table below provides pre-season estimates of vaccine shipments to the McKesson depots provided by the manufacturers to CDC. *Please keep in mind that the actual delivery dates and the % of vaccine may vary from what is projected below based on production yields, release schedules, etc.*

Manufacturer	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
CSL	25%	75%		
GSK	15%	85%		
MedImmune	20%	40%	35%	5%
Novartis		50%	50%	
sanofi pasteur	20%	30%	50%	

As the above table illustrates, not all flu vaccine presentations will be available at the same time. As a result, initial provider orders will be filled by the percentage of manufacturer product received by McKesson, with the remainder of the order placed on backorder by our program until additional inventory has been shipped by the manufacturer. For example, if 20-30% of a particular product is available for distribution, all providers who ordered this product would receive 20-30% of their order. We will also compare the size of your order to your reported doses administered for last influenza season and allow a 10% increase. Once orders have been filled for each of the VFC providers, a second order from a provider will be processed. The KIP tries to be equitable in the distribution of available vaccine so that all providers are treated fairly.

NOTE: It is important to keep in mind that CDC's centralized distribution process involves a number of steps that are quite different from the steps that precede the delivery of vaccine that is ordered privately.

- The steps for centralized distribution include shipment to McKesson from the manufacturer (1-2 days); receipt of doses at the distribution center (1 day); update of CDC's allocation functionality (1-2 days); placement of orders by grantees (timing varies); shipment of doses to provider (3-4 days).
- In contrast, vaccine ordered from the private sector can either be ordered directly from a manufacturer or through a distributor, depending on the product. If ordered directly from the manufacture, vaccine is shipped shortly after it is released (1 day). If ordered through a distributor, the vaccine is received from the manufacturer (1 day) and then repackaged and shipped to fill orders (2-3 days).

Thus, even if a manufacturer ships doses to a private provider and to one of the CDC distribution centers on the same day, it is not possible for the provider to receive his private and public doses in the same day. The public distribution system is set up much differently than the private distribution system, with multiple steps and state program involvement in order to ensure the equity of distribution across product types and jurisdictions that does not exist in the private sector.

It is important for providers to understand the inherent differences between these two distribution systems so that realistic expectations about public sector flu vaccine distribution can assist in planning flu vaccine vaccination efforts.

Provider receipt of flu vaccine orders

As with all vaccine orders, providers must open flu vaccine packages immediately, check the temperature monitor reading, inspect the vaccine, compare the vaccine and the packing list, and store at appropriate temperatures. If vaccines have been compromised or if temperature monitors are out-of-range, not present in the box, or a warm indicator is not activated, providers should notify McKesson Specialty Customer Care dedicated vaccine viability telephone line immediately at **877-TEMP123 (877-836-7123)** as with other vaccine shipments. According to the current language in the centralized vaccine distribution contract, CDC is financially liable for any vaccine that is not called into Customer Care within two hours of the provider signing the receipt, even if the cause of the problem was *not* due to provider or grantee error. Please make note of this instruction and contact the vaccine viability telephone line if you are concerned that a vaccine shipment is compromised. The vaccine viability telephone line is printed on the temperature monitors that are included in all vaccine shipments.

Please contact us if you have questions about seasonal influenza vaccine ordering or distribution. The flu vaccine order form can be found at <http://www.kdheks.gov/immunize/forms.htm>

Thank you for your continued immunization protection of our Kansas children.