

MEMO

2025 – 2026 Respiratory Season Vaccine Prebook Information

January 16, 2025

North Dakota Prevention Partnership Providers

For the 2025 - 2026 respiratory season, all Vaccines for Children (VFC) and Vaccines for Adults (VFA) influenza and COVID-19 vaccine prebooking will be completed online. The online prebooking surveys can be found on the North Dakota Department Health and Human Services (ND HHS) [website](#). Please complete the online respiratory season vaccine prebook [survey](#) by **Monday, February 3, 2025**. It is critical that influenza and COVID-19 vaccine prebooks are received prior to this date, as ND HHS has to prebook vaccine with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Once the survey is submitted, the provider's respiratory season vaccine prebook has been placed with ND HHS. ND HHS asks all providers to print a copy of their submitted respiratory season vaccine prebook to have on hand. The last page of the prebooking survey will prompt providers to do this. Having a copy of your clinic's respiratory vaccine prebook will be helpful when vaccine begins to ship in early fall/summer 2025. Influenza vaccine may not be provided to clinics who do not prebook influenza vaccine.

North Dakota providers are encouraged to review 2024 – 2025 respiratory season vaccination rates, usage and set goals for increasing respiratory season vaccination rates during the 2025 – 2026 season.

The ND HHS highly recommends that providers prebook more than one brand and presentation (i.e., vials and syringes) of influenza vaccine, in case of vaccine supply issues. By prebooking only one brand or presentation, providers may not receive influenza vaccine until later in the influenza season, or not at all, if their particular brand or presentation is involved in a vaccine delay, shortage, or recall. Also, often in influenza seasons, certain brands or presentations are released through the allocation system sooner, so providers may receive doses earlier for this reason. Please keep in mind to only prebook brands or presentations that staff will be educated on how to use. Prebooking several brands may allow for faster delivery,

but if staff are unaware how to administer them correctly it could result in medication errors. VFC and VFA influenza vaccine will be shipped from McKesson in multiple shipments to providers for the 2025 – 2026 influenza season.

ND HHS-supplied influenza and COVID-19 vaccine must be used for **VFC-eligible children (Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaskan Native, uninsured or underinsured) only.** **It is your clinic's responsibility to order private influenza vaccine for insured children to ensure all children in your clinic are vaccinated.** Providers will be able to prebook influenza and COVID-19 vaccine for VFA-eligible un/underinsured adults. Influenza and COVID-19 vaccine that is prebooked by providers for VFC-eligible pediatric patients should not be used for the adult population. The VFC Program is an entitlement program, so if children are eligible to receive vaccine, they must be able to receive VFC vaccine.

VFC and VFA influenza and COVID-19 vaccine will be allocated to providers based on prebook orders, previous influenza and COVID-19 vaccine orders, doses administered entered into the NDIIS from the 2024- 2025 respiratory season and your clinic's size. Providers are not guaranteed to receive all of the vaccine they prebook.

Some suggestions for determining the amount of influenza and COVID-19 vaccine to prebook:

- For influenza: Children eight years of age and younger who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time will need to receive **two** doses. The doses should be given at least four weeks apart.
- For both COVID-19 and influenza: Use the North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) to determine the amount of vaccine administered last year. When running a doses administered report in the NDIIS, use "ALL VFC TYPES" for VFC TYPE and "Public" for FUNDING SOURCE. Do not select "All Clients." This will show the information based on vaccine type, not brand choice.
- For both COVID-19 and influenza: Consider the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for vaccination of all children 6 months – 18 years. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>

Contact the ND HHS Immunization Unit with any questions at vaccine@nd.gov.

Miranda Baumgartner

Vaccines for Children/QI Coordinator