



November 01, 2019

Re: Flu Vaccine Notice: Access to Pharmacy Vaccine Network

Dear IEHP Provider:

Unfortunately, our Public Health colleagues are predicting a **severe flu season**. Now is the time to act to help ease the severity of the flu on our community. IEHP is actively working on Member outreach and flu vaccine education. This year, IEHP Medi-Cal and IEHP DualChoice Members who are over 18 years old may obtain flu vaccines through the IEHP Pharmacy Vaccine Network. Please note that Members who are under 18 years old must obtain their Vaccines for Children (VFC)-covered vaccines through their Primary Care Physician's (PCP) office. A Pharmacy Vaccine Network listing is available on our website at www.iehp.org.

As a reminder on August 23, 2019, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the updated recommendations regarding the use of influenza vaccine for the 2019-2020 influenza season. A summary of the changes and updated recommendations are as follows:

- Routine annual influenza vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications continues to be recommended. A licensed, recommended and age-appropriate vaccine should be used.
- For the 2019–2020 season, trivalent influenza vaccines will contain hemagglutinin (HA) derived from an A/Brisbane/02/2018 (H1N1) pdm09–like virus, an A/Kansas/14/2017 (H3N2)–like virus, and a B/Colorado/06/2017–like virus (Victoria lineage). Quadrivalent influenza vaccines will contain HA derived from these three viruses and from an additional influenza B vaccine virus, a B/Phuket/3073/2013–like virus (Yamagata lineage). This composition includes updates in the influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 and influenza A(H3N2) components of the vaccine.
- The FDA approved an expanded age indication for Afluria Quadrivalent (IIV4). Previously licensed for persons aged ≥ 5 years, Afluria Quadrivalent (IIV4) is now licensed for persons aged ≥ 6 months. The dose volume is 0.25 mL per dose (containing 7.5 μg of HA per vaccine virus) for children aged 6 through 35 months and 0.5 mL per dose (containing 15 μg of HA per vaccine virus) for all persons aged ≥ 36 months (≥ 3 years).
- In January 2019, the FDA approved a change in dose volume for Fluzone Quadrivalent (IIV4). Previously, the dose volume for children aged 6 through 35 months was 0.25 mL (containing 7.5 μg of HA per vaccine virus). Children aged 6 through 35 months who receive Fluzone Quadrivalent may now receive either 0.25 mL (containing 7.5 μg of HA

per vaccine virus) or 0.5 mL (containing 15 µg of HA per vaccine virus) per dose. Children aged ≥ 36 months (≥ 3 years) and adults should receive 0.5 mL per dose.

For more information about the 2019-2020 flu season, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2019-2020.htm

VFC-covered vaccines:

VFC-eligible children who are aged 6 months through 18 years who meet the required criteria must obtain VFC-covered vaccines through their **PCP's office**. There is no contracted Pharmacy able to provide VFC-covered vaccines currently.

IEHP Medi-Cal (over 18 years old) and IEHP DualChoice Members:

IEHP will reimburse Providers the cost of the vaccine for IEHP Medi-Cal Members (over 18 years old). Submit your completed CMS1500 claim form with the correct CPT code to IEHP Claims Dept., P.O. Box 4349, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91729-4349. For DualChoice Members, Medicare IPAs are responsible for the vaccine payment and claims should be submitted to the Member's IPA.

It is important to know that the availability of adult vaccines varies among Pharmacies. Please refer our IEHP Members to one of our Pharmacy Vaccine Network Providers to receive an immunization by utilizing our Pharmacy Vaccine Network list and advise Members to call the Pharmacy in advance for scheduling and availability of the vaccine. Although a prescription is not necessary, it is also advised that you provide a prescription in case the Pharmacy lacks a protocol to initiate a prescription.

It will take all of us coming together to mitigate the impact of the flu this year. We can make the difference. Our team at IEHP thanks you, our Providers, for all you do each day to care for the most vulnerable in our community. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please call Provider Relations at **(909) 890-2054**.

Sincerely,



Karen Hansberger, MD
Interim Chief Medical Officer
Inland Empire Health Plan