



October 6, 2021

Re: Flu Vaccine Notice: Access to Pharmacy Vaccine Network

Dear IEHP Provider:

The 2021-2022 influenza season is expected to coincide with circulation of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In an effort to potentially decrease stress on the U.S. health care system, IEHP Medi-Cal and IEHP DualChoice members who are 18 years of age or older may obtain flu vaccines through the IEHP Pharmacy Vaccine Network. **Please note:** Members who are under 18 years old *must* obtain their Vaccines for Children (VFC)-covered vaccines through their Primary Care Physician's (PCP) office. The Pharmacy Vaccine Network listing is available on our website at www.iehp.org.

Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the following updated recommendations regarding the use of influenza vaccine for the 2021-22 influenza season:

- Routine annual influenza vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months who do not have contraindications continues to be recommended. ACIP makes no preferential recommendation for a specific influenza vaccine when more than one licensed, recommended, and age-appropriate vaccine is available.
- All season influenza vaccines expected to be available for the 2021-22 season are quadrivalent, containing:
 - Hemagglutinin (HA) derived from one influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 virus, one influenza A(H3N2) virus, one influenza B/Victoria lineage virus, and one influenza B/Yamagata lineage virus.
- 2021-22 U.S. seasonal influenza vaccines include updates to:
 - Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 and influenza A(H3N2) components.
- Flucelvax Quadrivalent (cell culture-based quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine [ccIIV4]) now approved for person aged ≥ 2 years
- Current guidance for the use of COVID-19 vaccines indicates that these vaccines can be coadministered with other vaccines, including influenza vaccines. Providers should consult current COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and guidance for up-to-date information. Pages below should be checked periodically for updated information.
 - ACIP recommendations for the use of COVID-19 vaccines are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>.
 - Interim clinical guidance for the use of COVID-19 vaccines is available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>.

- Updated discussion on the following:
 - Timing of vaccinations
 - Contraindications and precautions to the use of ccIV4 and RIV4 in persons with egg allergy

For more detailed information regarding the new recommendations of 2021-2022 flu season, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/rr/rr7005a1.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm>

VFC-covered vaccines:

Qualifying VFC children, who are aged 6 months through 18 years, 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 participating pharmacies to receive an immunization by utilizing our Pharmacy Vaccine Network list. 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,

Takashi Michael Wada, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer
Inland Empire Health Plan