



October 13, 2023

Re: Flu Vaccine Notice: Access to Pharmacy Vaccine Network

Dear IEHP Provider:

The 2023-2024 influenza season continues to coincide with circulation of COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2). Influenza vaccination remains an important tool for the prevention of potentially severe respiratory illness, which helps decrease the stress on the U.S. health care system. This year, 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. A 2023-2024 IEHP DualChoice Vaccine Pharmacy Network is available on our website at www.iehp.org. (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.)

As a reminder, on August 17, 2023, the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the updated recommendations regarding the use of influenza vaccine for the 2023-24 influenza season. A summary of the most recent recommendations are as follows:

- 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 2023-24 season are quadrivalent, containing:
 - Hemagglutinin (HA) derived from one influenza A (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, one influenza A (H3N2)-like virus, one influenza B/Victoria lineage virus, and one influenza B/Yamagata lineage virus
- Approved age indication for cell culture-based inactivated influenza vaccine, Flucelvax Quadrivalent (ccIIV4), continues to be ≥ 6 months.
- Vaccination for adults aged ≥ 65 years should preferentially receive any of the following higher dose or adjuvanted influenza vaccines:
 - Quadrivalent high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV4),
 - Quadrivalent recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV4), or
 - Quadrivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV4)

For more detailed information regarding the new recommendations of 2023-2024 flu season, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7202a1.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2023-2024.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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Wada".

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