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## **2015-2016 Influenza Vaccine Availability**

July 22, 2015

The Maine Immunization Program (MIP) will be supplying seasonal influenza vaccine for all children in Maine, ages 6 months through 18 years.

On February 26, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on its annual influenza vaccine recommendations. For 2015-2016, ACIP recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older with either mist or injectable vaccine, with no preference expressed for either vaccine when either is appropriate.

To ensure your facility will be eligible to place your vaccine order, please guarantee that the following are up to date within ImmPact:

- 2015 Provider Agreement
- Current User Agreement for ImmPact
- Current submission of monthly temperature logs
- Current reconciliation of inventory

We will continue to support the efforts of all communities in vaccinating children in the school setting. Schools have proven to be a successful venue for reaching children for vaccination, with 66 percent of Maine's schools offering vaccine clinics this past influenza season.

Influenza vaccine for adults will not be available through the MIP. Several factors have guided this decision. Last year, more than \$500,000 in funding for adult vaccine was not spent, and more than 20,000 doses of vaccine that had been ordered went unused. Adult vaccinations are now covered under the Affordable Care Act, so providers can be reimbursed for vaccine that is ordered directly. In addition, Maine's large network of providers who must treat patients regardless of the ability to pay are an ample resource for those who are uninsured. Our staff can help you find a facility or provider in your area.

### **Maine Immunization Program Timeline**

August 2015      Guidance for vaccine ordering communicated to providers  
Updated SLVC ToolKit posted online

September 2015      Vaccine shipments start to arrive in provider offices

For more information about the 2015-2016 influenza season, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2015-2016.htm>

If you have any questions, please call the Maine Immunization Program at 1-800-867-4775 or email [immunizeme.dhhs@maine.gov](mailto:immunizeme.dhhs@maine.gov).