



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

May 07, 2014

Dear Colleague,

The National Vaccine Advisory Committee recently revised the [Standards for Adult Immunization Practice](#), which describes the roles and responsibilities for all providers who see adult patients in an effort to increase vaccination rates. Vaccination coverage rates in adults remain far below Healthy People 2020 goals, placing them at unacceptable risk for vaccine-preventable diseases. The New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) endorses the revised Standards and asks all adult-care providers to implement them into practice.

The Standards for Adult Immunization Practice guidance document describes the four steps that every provider should implement when seeing adult patients:

1. Screen adult patients for vaccination status at each visit
2. Strongly recommend the needed vaccines to their patients at each visit
3. Administer the needed vaccines, or refer the patient to a provider who is able to vaccinate
4. Document the vaccination in the patient's medical record and submit this information to the NYC Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).

The Standards for Adult Immunization Practice are supported by many national organizations including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Pharmacists Association and the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Resources to implement these standards are available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including information sheets for distribution to patients and provider scripts for talking about immunizations with adult patients, at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/adults/for-practice/standards.html> and from the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit website at <http://www.izsummitpartners.org/adult-immunization-standards/>. For more information on CIR, or to register, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/health/cir>. Please contact Dr. Anita Geevarughese at (347) 396-2429 or ageevarughese@health.nyc.gov for more information on implementing the adult standards or other information on adult vaccination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner