



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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization
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October 7, 2014

Dear Colleague,

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine. Currently, vaccine manufacturers project that as many as 151-159 million doses of influenza vaccine will be distributed for use during the 2014-15 season. As of September 26th, about 88 million doses of flu vaccine have been distributed nationally. Some providers may be experiencing delays in shipments of particular influenza vaccine products. Although shipments may be delayed, there is not a vaccine shortage.

Most manufacturers have indicated that the majority of vaccine will be distributed by the end of October, though some vaccine distribution will likely continue into November. Shipments of Fluzone Quadrivalent 0.5 mL adult and 0.25 mL pediatric syringes will be delayed through November. However, the majority of doses are anticipated to ship in October. GSK influenza vaccines, including Flulaval and Fluarix, may be delayed as well. Check with your distributor or vaccine representative or go to www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vaccinesupply.htm for more information.

Vaccine for Children (VFC) flu vaccine orders are being filled at this time with no anticipated delays. Providers who participate in the VFC program and are experiencing delays in receiving their non-VFC flu vaccine supply, may borrow doses of vaccine from their VFC supply for use in private patients at this time. All doses must be accounted for and documented in the VFC Vaccine Borrowing Report found at www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/vfc-borrowing-report.pdf. Borrowed vaccines must be replaced once your private shipment is received.

Providers with insufficient quantities of non-VFC pediatric or adult vaccine should consider purchasing vaccine from alternate distributors and vendors. Up-to-date information on vaccine availability through all the major distributors is available through the Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) at www.izsummitpartners.org/ivats/.

As a reminder, all people aged 6 months and older should receive a flu vaccine annually, especially children under the age of 5 years, adults over the age 65, pregnant women and persons with chronic health conditions. Additional information on influenza activity, flu vaccine recommendations, and education materials are available at www.nyc.gov/flu.

We thank you for your continued efforts in protecting New York City residents from influenza.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc