



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH
Commissioner

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

2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

September 22, 2010

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Distribution of vaccine has begun. To date, we have been allocated approximately 28% of our total influenza vaccine order by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Over 226,910 doses have been shipped so far. We are shipping partial orders to ensure that all VFC providers receive some vaccine. You should start to vaccinate your patients as soon as you receive vaccine.

The majority of vaccine we have been allocated is either multi-dose vials or live-attenuated intranasal vaccine. We have only received small amounts of 0.25 ml pre-filled syringes and 0.5 ml single-dose vials. As we receive more of these vaccine products, we will ship them to provider offices.

For children 6 months to 35 months, a dose of 0.25 ml drawn from a multi-dose vial may be used if you obtain informed consent from the person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf. Informed consent should be documented by using a separate consent form or by noting consent in the patient's medical record or on the immunization record.

About 69% of pediatric practices participating in the VFC program have ordered influenza vaccine. **If you have not yet placed your VFC influenza vaccine order, we urge you to do so.** We also remind you that VFC influenza vaccine can be ordered online through the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) Online Registry. To order vaccine online, please go to www.nyc.gov/health/cir and log on to the Online Registry. You may also fax your influenza order to 212-676-2314 (see attached order form). Please note: when you order vaccine, be sure your office is open to receive shipment and not closed for a holiday and/or religious observance.

For further information about influenza, please visit www.nyc.gov/flu. If you have any questions about your vaccine order, ordering vaccine or CIR reporting, please e-mail us at nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov.

We thank you for making every effort to vaccinate your patients against influenza this year.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, M.D., M.Sc.