



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

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

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

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. To date, we have been allocated all of our total influenza vaccine order by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). So far, approximately two-thirds or nearly 800,000 doses have been shipped to New York City (NYC) providers.

Last influenza season in NYC, 29% of children aged 6 months to 18 years of age received 1 or more (as age appropriate) influenza vaccines ¹. So far this year, based on data from the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), vaccination of children 6 months to 18 years of age is at about the same level as it was last year. This year we hope to protect more children by increasing vaccination coverage, and we encourage you to make every effort to immunize all your patients.

There is an ample supply of vaccine available. If you need additional VFC vaccine for your patients, or have not yet ordered VFC influenza vaccine, we urge you to place an order. VFC influenza vaccine can be ordered online through the 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).

We are also writing to inform you about the FluMist[®] Replacement Program for product purchased through the CDC contract for the 2010-2011 season. The Replacement Program allows for the replacement of unused, expiring FluMist doses, at no cost, to help you maximize product usage opportunities. Please see the attached letter for further details.

For further information about influenza, please visit www.nyc.gov/flu. The 2010 ACIP recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf>.

We thank you for your efforts in this year's influenza campaign.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc.
Assistant Commissioner

¹ CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report - October 1, 2010
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5939a2.htm?s_cid=mm5939a2_w