



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

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

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

Dear Colleague:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released the **General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization** as an online report, available on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) web page (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html>). The new guidelines replace the **General Recommendations on Immunization**, last published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* in 2011.

The **General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization** goes beyond vaccination recommendations to give providers guidelines on vaccination practice. The document will help vaccination providers assess vaccine benefits and risks, use recommended administration practices, understand the most effective strategies for ensuring that vaccination coverage in the population remains high, and communicate the importance of vaccination to reduce the effects of vaccine-preventable disease.

The updated guidelines include:

1. New information on simultaneous vaccination and febrile seizures.
2. Enhancement of the definition of “precaution” to include any condition that might confuse diagnostic accuracy.
3. More descriptive characterization of anaphylactic allergy.
4. Incorporation of protocols for management of anaphylactic allergy.
5. Allowances for alternate route (subcutaneous instead of intramuscular) for hepatitis A vaccination.
6. Incorporation of the Infectious Diseases Society of America guidance on vaccination of persons with altered immunocompetence.
7. Updated data on vaccination record policy.
8. Updated programmatic contact information on source material for vaccine information.

Continuing education credit is available for the **General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization**. Details are available on the webpage.

To receive updates on this document, as well as other ACIP recommendations and guidelines, sign up at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/index.html>.

For questions on the new guidelines or any other vaccine-related issue, please contact (347) 396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. Thank you for keeping NYC children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc