



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Oxiris Barbot, MD
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:

This is an update on influenza activity and the availability and distribution of seasonal flu vaccine. Currently, influenza activity is high in the United States, and elevated—and still increasing—in New York City (NYC). Long-term care facilities continue to report nosocomial influenza outbreaks. In NYC, both influenza A and B viruses are co-circulating.

In NYC, we have been allocated nearly all of the flu vaccine that we pre-booked for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and all requested vaccine has been shipped to facilities. Flu vaccine orders continue to be processed at this time. All products remain in good supply. For help with your VFC flu order, please call (347) 396-2489. **If you need additional VFC vaccine, don't stop vaccination efforts; update your flu vaccine order so we can ship more vaccine.**

Flu vaccine is still available for purchase for providers and medical facilities who need vaccine for their non-VFC eligible or adult populations. More information about what products are available can be found at <https://www.izsubmitpartners.org/ivats/>.

All children six months through 59 months of age enrolled in New York City Article 47 & 43 regulated pre-kindergarten programs (Child Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-K) must receive one dose of flu vaccine between July 1st and December 31st of each year. Since it is now February, children who did not receive their flu vaccine are now excludable from their pre-kindergarten programs if they do not have a valid medical exemption.

A history of confirmed influenza A and/or B virus is not a contraindication for receiving the flu vaccine. Egg allergy, as well, is not a contraindication for receiving the vaccine. If the egg allergy manifests in urticaria only, no special conditions are necessary for receiving the vaccine. Persons who report having had reactions to egg involving symptoms other than urticaria (e.g., angioedema or swelling, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent vomiting) or who require epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention may similarly receive any licensed recommended flu vaccine. In that instance, vaccine administration should be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions.

For questions on flu vaccine, other than those pertaining to your VFC order, please call (347) 396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. We thank you for your continuing efforts at protecting NYC residents from influenza.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc