



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc

Commissioner

October 1, 2020

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

42-09 28<sup>th</sup> Street, CN21  
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on influenza activity and the availability and distribution of seasonal flu vaccine. Influenza activity remains low in the U.S. Flu vaccination should be a high priority at your facility.

A record amount of flu vaccine—nearly 198 million doses—will be produced this influenza season, and vaccine is being shipped every week. As of September 18, 2020, over 87 million doses have been shipped nationally, though vaccine distribution is expected to take longer this year because of the large volume of vaccine that must be distributed. We understand that some facilities have not received any flu vaccine as of yet, or may have received partial shipments, which is the case every year.

October is an ideal time to vaccinate, so there is ample time to vaccinate your patients; we encourage you to vaccinate patients when you see them and as your supply will allow. If you temporarily run out of vaccine, make sure to keep a list of patients who were seen and not vaccinated so that you can call them back to your office when you receive vaccine. Inform those patients that they will be called as soon as vaccine does arrive, and that they should make an appointment to return to your office for the vaccine as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can refer those patients to a facility that does have vaccine, such as pharmacies. For a list of sites with flu vaccine, go to [nyc.gov/flu](http://nyc.gov/flu), then click on “Find Your Flu Vaccination on NYC Health Map.” In the left column, click on “Vaccines,” then “Flu Vaccine” (when this selection appears), apply your parameters, and find locations with flu vaccine services.

In New York City (NYC), as of September 30, 2020, we have received 40% of our total Vaccines for Children (VFC) flu vaccine allocation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 88% of those doses have been shipped to providers; most doses not yet shipped are FluMist (live-attenuated influenza vaccine quadrivalent [LAIV] [AstraZeneca]). Facilities will continue to receive partial shipments of flu vaccine until their orders have been completely shipped. Please do not allow your facility to run out of vaccine; if you need vaccine, contact us before your inventory gets too low.

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

Be sure to report all flu vaccine codes appropriately to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), as detailed in our August 19, 2020, letter, at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/cir/flu-vaccine-codes-20-21.pdf>.

For questions on any immunization issue, including ordering VFC vaccine, please call (347) 396-2400 or email [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov). We thank you for your continuing efforts at protecting NYC residents from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc