



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Oxiris Barbot, MD  
Acting Commissioner

October 30, 2019

**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 the availability and distribution of seasonal flu vaccine. As of October 18, 2019, approximately 140.2 million doses of flu vaccine have already been distributed nationally; it is projected that 162-169 million doses of flu vaccine will be distributed this season. Currently, influenza activity is low in the United States, as well as in New York City (NYC), though specimens submitted for influenza testing have already tested positive, and there has been a slight increase in the number of weekly influenza-like illness visits. Flu activity is expected to continue to increase, at an even more rapid rate, in the coming weeks. The New York State Department of Health has categorized influenza activity as sporadic, with a majority of counties reporting laboratory-confirmed cases.

In NYC, we have been allocated 88% of the total amount of flu vaccine that we pre-booked for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and most of this vaccine has been shipped to facilities. Flu vaccine orders continue to be filled at this time, though facilities may be receiving partial shipments until their order has been completely shipped. Most providers who requested to have their entire order shipped to them by October 31 should have received their complete order already. For help with your VFC flu vaccine 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/>.

Vaccination should be well underway at your facility. Consider setting up flu vaccine-only clinics, especially at night and/or on weekends, to facilitate vaccinating all your patients. Use Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) tools to run coverage reports and identify patients still in need of vaccination.

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's City Health Information's annual edition on influenza prevention and control is available at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi-38-4.pdf>. In it, you will find information on the impact of influenza disease, strategies for improving flu vaccine coverage, influenza treatment and prophylaxis, availability of flu vaccine administration at pharmacies, and the requirement that children attending day care, school based child care, Head Start, and prekindergarten programs be vaccinated. Additional information on influenza activity, flu vaccine recommendations, and educational materials are available at [www.nyc.gov/flu](http://www.nyc.gov/flu).

For questions on flu vaccine, other than those pertaining to your VFC order, 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 influenza.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc