



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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization
42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

November 12, 2014

Dear Colleague,

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine. As described in our previous update, you may be experiencing delays in your private influenza vaccine supply. As of October 31st, about 132 million doses of flu vaccine have been distributed nationally. While the majority of vaccine was distributed through the end of October, some products may continue shipping into early and late November, including GSK's Flulaval Quadrivalent and Fluarix Quadrivalent products and Sanofi Pasteur's Fluzone products. Check with your distributor or vaccine representative or go to www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/vaccination/vaccinesupply.htm for more information.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) flu vaccine orders continue to be filled at this time with no anticipated delays. Providers who are experiencing delays in receiving non-VFC flu vaccine may borrow vaccine from their VFC supply for use in private pediatric patients at this time. All doses should be documented in the VFC Vaccine Borrowing Report found at www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/vfc-borrowing-report.pdf. Borrowed vaccines should be replaced once your private shipment is received. Providers wishing to purchase additional vaccine can obtain information on availability from all major distributors through the Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) at www.izsummitpartners.org/ivats/.

Please continue to make every effort to ensure all of your patients are vaccinated. VFC providers are expected to order adequate quantities of flu vaccine to vaccinate all their eligible patients. In order to support these efforts, you are now able to easily replicate the influenza up-to-date coverage reports that the Bureau of Immunization sends out in its November and February quarterly mailings. This functionality is available by logging in to the CIR, going to "Tools", and then clicking on the "Standard or Flu Coverage" link. The influenza coverage report can be run on your practice's 6-59 month-olds, 5-10 year-olds, and/or 11-18 year-olds; indicate which groups you would like to run coverage on by checking the boxes next to the appropriate age groupings.

To assist in your vaccination efforts, educational materials are available from the Health Department. The Influenza Health Bulletin is available in multiple languages online at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/public/dohmhnews13-04.pdf>. You may obtain copies for distribution to your patients by calling 311.

We would like to ensure that you are aware of the MedImmune FluMist Replacement Program, which allows for the replacement, at no cost, of unused, expiring FluMist doses for the 2014-15 season. For more information about this program, see the attached letter.

We thank you for your continued efforts in protecting New Yorkers from influenza.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc