



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

September 29, 2015

Dear Colleague,

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine. Currently, vaccine manufacturers project that as many as 171-179 million doses of influenza vaccine will be distributed for use during the 2015-16 season. As of September 18th, about 76 million doses of flu vaccine have been distributed nationally, and vaccination should be well underway at your facility.

In New York City (NYC), we have received about half of our total flu vaccine allocation for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Flu vaccine orders continue to be filled at this time, though facilities may be receiving partial shipments. **VFC providers who have not yet ordered flu vaccine should do so immediately.** We have received a limited supply of Fluzone® Quadrivalent 0.25 mL and 0.50 pre-filled syringes, and Flumist® quadrivalent live-attenuated vaccine. We are shipping small, partial orders of these products and anticipate receiving and distributing more of these formulations in the next few weeks. Other products are in good supply, including Fluarix® Quadrivalent 0.5 mL pre-filled syringes, and Fluzone single-dose and multi-dose vials. VFC providers who are experiencing delays in receiving doses may borrow from their private supply for use in VFC-eligible patients. All doses must be accounted for and documented in the VFC Vaccine Borrowing Report found at www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/vfc-borrowing-report.pdf. Borrowed vaccines must be replaced once your VFC shipment is received.

Use Online Registry reminder/recall tools to ensure all of your patients are vaccinated. A new text messaging tool is available to recall patients for flu vaccination and can be accessed via the “Recall” button in the Online Registry. A guide to text messaging is also available on the same page. In addition, you can access the special Influenza Coverage Report, available via the “Tools” button in the Online Registry, which calculates coverage the same way as it is done in your quarterly report, and will allow for easier analysis of your coverage trends. Be sure to report all administered flu vaccine doses to the CIR for accurate reports.

As a reminder, all people aged 6 months and older should receive a flu vaccine annually, especially children under the age of 5 years, adults over the age 65, pregnant women and persons with chronic health conditions. Also, all children 6 through 59 months attending NYC-licensed child care must receive a flu vaccine before December 31st. Additional information on influenza activity, flu vaccine recommendations, and education materials are available at www.nyc.gov/flu.

We thank you for your continued efforts in protecting New York City residents from influenza.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc