



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

Oxiris Barbot, MD
Acting Commissioner

October 1, 2018

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 the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine. Currently, vaccine manufacturers have projected they would provide between 163 million and 168 million doses of injectable influenza vaccine nationally for use during the 2018-19 season. Flu vaccination should be well underway at your facility.

In New York City (NYC), we have received about half of our total Vaccines for Children (VFC) flu vaccine allocation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our initial allocation of vaccine was less than it had been in previous years, resulting in a short delay in getting more vaccine out to some providers, but this is now resolved. Nearly all (85%) facilities that requested they receive all their flu vaccine by the end of October have already gotten their entire orders. Other facilities will continue to receive partial shipments 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.

As of September 28, 2018, only 83% of VFC providers have ordered flu vaccine. All VFC providers are expected to offer flu vaccine to their patients. **VFC providers who have not yet ordered flu vaccine should do so immediately.** For questions about your flu order, please call (347) 396-2489.

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.izsummitpartners.org/ivats/>

Flu vaccine coverage for children and adults in NYC remains low, and below the Healthy People goal of 70%. Use evidence-based strategies to improve your facilities flu vaccination rates, including standing orders and reminder/recall. There are tools in the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) to run your own flu vaccine up-to-date report so you can track your coverage and identify patients who have not yet received their vaccine.

As a reminder, important groups to vaccinate include all children 6 through 59 months (especially those <2 years), adults aged 50 years and older (especially those ≥65 years), women who are or will be pregnant during influenza season, residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, persons with certain high-risk medical conditions, and health care workers. Additional information on influenza activity, flu vaccine recommendations, and educational materials are available at 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. 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