



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner

October 1, 2019

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 162 million and 169 million doses of injectable influenza vaccine nationally for use during the 2019-20 season. Flu vaccination should be well underway at your facility.

In New York City (NYC), we have received about 48% of our total Vaccines for Children (VFC) flu vaccine allocation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and 92% of those doses have been shipped to providers. Facilities will 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 27, 2019, only 91% 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.izsubmitpartners.org/ivats/>

Flu vaccine coverage for children and adults in NYC remains low, and below the Healthy People goal of 70% for children 5 through 18 years of age and for adults. Use evidence-based strategies to improve your facility's flu vaccination rates, including standing orders and reminder/recall. The Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) can help you with these quality improvement activities.

Please be aware that we have been allocated much less live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) (FluMist Quadrivalent®, AstraZeneca) from CDC than we requested. Consequently, your VFC order for FluMist might be filled partly with other flu vaccine formulations.

Be sure to report all flu vaccine codes appropriately to the CIR, as detailed in our September 17, 2019, letter, at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/flu-vaccine-codes-letter.pdf>.

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