



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Thomas Farley, MD MPH  
*Commissioner*

January 14, 2013

Dear Colleague:

We are forwarding you the New York State Executive Order signed by Governor Cuomo which declares a State Public Health Emergency in response to the severe influenza season. For more information on this Executive Order go to: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/01122013Severe-Flu-Season>. We urge you to make every effort to ensure that all your patients receive a flu vaccine this year. To access the most recent Health Alert Network update on influenza, including recommendations and information on vaccine availability, go to: <https://a816-health29ssl.nyc.gov/sites/NYCHAN/WebPages/home.aspx>.

We are also writing to inform you that the State Commissioner of Health has authorized the use of influenza vaccines containing more than the mercury levels described in PHL § 2112 (2) and (3). For more information on this authorization go to: [http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/providers/2013-01-12\\_thimerosal\\_waiver\\_letter.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/providers/2013-01-12_thimerosal_waiver_letter.htm). This will allow you to use multi-dose vials to administer flu vaccine to infants between 6 – 35 months and to pregnant women.

If you have flu vaccine related questions or have questions about vaccine supply, please contact us at: [nycflu@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycflu@health.nyc.gov) or call 347-396-2400. Providers who participate in the Vaccines for Children program, should order additional vaccine through the Online Registry at: [www.nyc.gov/health/cir](http://www.nyc.gov/health/cir). If you need additional doses of influenza vaccine for either private pediatric patients or for your adult patients, go to this website to find a distributor with available vaccine: [http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/ivats\\_healthcare.asp](http://www.preventinfluenza.org/ivats/ivats_healthcare.asp). If you are unable to obtain vaccine through this mechanism, please contact us as stated above.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Immunization