



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

Thomas Farley, MD, MPH
Commissioner

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Dear Colleague:

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, and includes important information regarding replacement of expired doses of live attenuated influenza vaccine and vaccine safety.

To date, we have been allocated approximately 98% of our total influenza vaccine order by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and over 580,000 doses have been shipped. There is ample supply of vaccine still available. If you need additional vaccine, please order via the Online Registry at www.nyc.gov/health/cir. As a reminder, all influenza doses administered to patients younger than 19 years of age should be reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) along with indication of VFC eligibility status. If you need assistance with CIR reporting, or for help placing an influenza order, please e-mail nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or call the VFC program at 347-396-2405. For more information on ordering influenza vaccine for adults or non-VFC eligible patients, please visit www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/flu-imm-order-info.pdf.

We would also like to alert you to the MedImmune FluMist[®] Replacement Program. The program allows for the replacement of unused, expiring FluMist doses distributed through the VFC program for the 2011-2012 season, at no cost. For more information, please see: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/med-fm-rrf-instruct-508.pdf.

There have been several inquiries regarding the increased risk for febrile seizures with simultaneous administration of trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV 13). CDC reviewed over 200,000 health care records of vaccinated children 6 months through 4 years of age available through Vaccine Safety Datalink program for the 2010-11 influenza season. The analysis found that febrile seizures following TIV and PCV13 did occur, but were rare. An increase in febrile seizures was identified among children ages 12 through 23 months when TIV and PCV13 were given at the same visit; approximately 1 extra case occurred for every 2000 to 3000 children vaccinated. Based on the review of this data, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended no change to the childhood immunization schedule at this time. Additional information on this topic can be found at: www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/Concerns/FebrileSeizures.html

We encourage you to make every effort to provide influenza vaccine to all your patients this year. For further information about influenza, please visit www.nyc.gov/flu. Thank you for helping protect New York City residents from influenza.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner