



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

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

2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

February 2, 2011

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. To date, we have been allocated all of our influenza vaccine order by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Over 900,000 doses, or three-quarters of our allocation, have been shipped to New York City (NYC) providers. The majority of our remaining doses are live attenuated intranasal vaccine (LAIV); also available are 0.25 ml single dose syringes, 0.5 single doses vials and syringes, and multi-dose vials.

You should continue to offer seasonal influenza vaccine throughout the spring. Influenza is circulating in NYC and is likely to persist in coming months. There is still time to protect your patients. Last year, influenza viruses continued to circulate through the summer, and NYC has had outbreaks late in the spring. Please refer to your December quarterly immunization report, which provides flu coverage estimates for your facility for children 6 months to 5 years and 5 years to 18 years of age. Use this as a guide to determine how many more children need to be vaccinated this season and to generate a list using the recall features of the Online Registry. We also ask you to make sure anyone < 9 years of age who is being vaccinated for the first time receive his or her second dose of influenza vaccine.

If you need additional VFC vaccine, we urge you to place an order. VFC influenza vaccine can be ordered online through the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) Online Registry. To order vaccine, please go to www.nyc.gov/health/cir, log on to the Online Registry, click on the 'VFC' icon in the tool bar, then tab on 'Order VFC Vaccine'. You may also fax your influenza order to (212) 676-2314 (see attached order form).

We also want to remind you to report all influenza doses administered to patients younger than 19 years to the CIR, along with the indication of VFC eligibility status. Finally, the Health Department has additional influenza vaccine that may be used for your commercially insured patients. If you need assistance with CIR reporting, or to inquire about influenza vaccine, please e-mail us at nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov.

For further information about influenza, please visit www.nyc.gov/flu. We thank you for your efforts in this year's influenza vaccination campaign.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc