



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

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

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Queens, NY 11101-4132

November 21, 2016

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine. Currently, vaccine manufacturers project that as many as 157-168 million doses of influenza vaccine will be distributed nationally for use during the 2016-17 season. As of November 11<sup>th</sup>, about 132 million doses of flu vaccine have already been distributed, and vaccination should be well underway at your facility. Though current influenza activity in New York City (NYC) is minimal, past years have shown that there will likely be a sharp increase in activity beginning in December. There has already been one reported influenza outbreak in a NYC long-term care facility.

In NYC, we have received about 85% of our total flu vaccine allocation for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Flu vaccine orders continue to be filled at this time, though facilities may be receiving partial shipments until their order has been completely shipped. **VFC providers who have not yet ordered flu vaccine should do so immediately.** All products are in good supply. As a reminder, per Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) should not be used during the 2016-17 season and is not available through the VFC program. To revise your VFC order, or for any additional help you might need with your VFC flu order, please call (347) 396-2489. Additional VFC vaccine is available, if needed.

Use Online Registry reminder/recall tools to ensure that all your patients are vaccinated. The text messaging tool is available to recall patients for flu—and any other—vaccine, and can be accessed via the “Recall” button in the Online Registry. A guide to text messaging is also available on the same page. In addition, you can access the special Influenza Coverage Report, available via the “Tools” button in the Online Registry, which calculates coverage the same way as it is done in your quarterly report, and will allow for easier analysis of your coverage trends. Be sure to report all administered flu vaccine doses to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) so that your reminder/recall and coverage reports are accurate.

As a reminder, all people aged 6 months and older should receive a flu vaccine annually, especially children less than 5 years of age, people with long-term health conditions, pregnant women, and people aged 65 years and older. Additional information on influenza activity, flu vaccine recommendations, and educational materials are available at [www.nyc.gov/flu](http://www.nyc.gov/flu).

For questions on the flu vaccine, other than those pertaining to your VFC order, please contact (347) 396-2400 or email [nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov](mailto:nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov). Thank you for your continued efforts in protecting NYC residents from influenza.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc