



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

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Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28th Street
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Queens, NY 11101

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on the availability and distribution of seasonal influenza vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. To date, only ~70% of VFC providers in New York City have ordered influenza vaccine. **We urge those VFC providers who have not yet ordered vaccine to place their orders now.** A sufficient supply of seasonal influenza vaccine is expected to be available to allow you to immunize all of your patients.

You should begin your vaccination efforts as soon as possible. It is not too early. Vaccine given now will offer patients protection throughout the entire influenza season. Summary recommendations for the 2013-2014 influenza season can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/2013-summary-recommendations.htm#primary-changes>.

Recommendations for which children 6 months through 8 years of age should receive two doses of influenza vaccine remain unchanged this season. Children in this age group who require a second dose of influenza vaccine, administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose, include:

1. All children who have not received at least two doses of seasonal influenza vaccine in the past, or
2. Children who have received 2 prior doses of influenza vaccine, but did not receive at least one dose of seasonal influenza vaccine since 2010 or at least one dose of monovalent 2009 (H1N1) vaccine.

We are receiving a mix of influenza vaccine products and providers should expect to receive both trivalent and quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine. The inactivated 0.5mL vaccine products are available in both quadrivalent and trivalent formulations, while all the 0.25 mL vaccine we have been allocated is trivalent. FluMist® (referred to as LAIV4) is available entirely in quadrivalent form.

All VFC orders must be placed electronically, using the using the Online Registry at www.nyc.gov/health/cir. You are able to track your influenza vaccine shipments and edit your influenza vaccine order in the Online Registry. If you need assistance with submitting your order or have questions, please e-mail nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or call the VFC program at 347-396-2489. For your non-VFC eligible children and adult patients, influenza vaccine can be obtained by contacting influenza vaccine manufacturers or distributors. For a list of vaccine manufacturers and distributors, please visit www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/flu-imm-order-info.pdf

We encourage you to make every effort to vaccinate 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