



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Oxiris Barbot, MD
Acting Commissioner

November 28, 2018

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

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on influenza activity and the availability and distribution of seasonal flu vaccine. As of November 9, 2018, about 159 million doses of flu vaccine have already been distributed nationally. Currently, influenza activity is low in the United States, as well as in New York City (NYC), and is expected to increase in the coming weeks. Despite low activity, specimens in NYC continue to test positive for influenza. One influenza-associated pediatric death has already been confirmed in NYC, though none since our last update at the end of October.

In NYC, we have been allocated 97% of the total amount of flu vaccine that we pre-booked for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and most of this vaccine has been shipped to facilities. Flu vaccine orders continue to be filled at this time, though facilities may be receiving partial shipments until their order has been completely shipped. Providers who requested to have their entire order shipped to them by October 31 have received their complete order already. All products are in good supply. For any help you might need with your VFC flu order, please call (347) 396-2489. **If you need additional VFC vaccine, don't stop vaccination efforts; update your flu vaccine order so we can ship more vaccine.**

Flu vaccine is still available for purchase for providers and medical facilities who need vaccine for their non-VFC eligible or adult populations. More information about what products are available can be found at <https://www.izsummitpartners.org/ivats/>

All children six months through 59 months of age enrolled in New York City Article 47 & 43 regulated pre-kindergarten programs (Child Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-K) must receive one dose of flu vaccine between July 1st and December 31st of each year. Although some children may need a second dose in order to comply with Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations, that second dose is not required for school attendance.

Influenza activity has been declared "sporadic" in New York State (NYS). Remember that, per the NYS Sanitary Code (NYCRR § 2.59), when influenza activity has been determined to be prevalent by the NYS Health Commissioner, all staff working at health care and residential facilities and agencies regulated pursuant to Articles 28, 36, or 40 of the Public Health Law who are not vaccinated against influenza must wear a mask when they are in areas where patients or residents may be present.

For questions on flu vaccine, other than those pertaining to your VFC order, please call (347) 396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. We thank you for your continuing efforts at protecting NYC residents from influenza.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc