



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD

*Commissioner*

November 16, 2022

Dear Colleague:

This is an update on influenza activity and the availability and distribution of seasonal flu vaccine. Influenza activity is increasing in the U.S. and in New York City (NYC), where ~7% of all specimens submitted for influenza testing have been positive and influenza-like illness visits were 8% of all weekly visits. Flu vaccine administration should be a high priority at your facility. If you have not yet ordered flu vaccine, you should do so immediately. As of November 5, 2022, vaccine manufacturers have distributed over 150 million doses of the 173.5 million to 183.5 million doses of flu vaccine that they expect to distribute nationally for use during the 2022-2023 season.

In NYC we have been allocated almost 98% of the total amount of flu vaccine that we pre-booked for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and 57% of this vaccine has been shipped to facilities. Facilities will receive partial shipments until their orders have been completely shipped; almost all providers who requested their entire shipment by the end of October have received their complete order. All products are in good supply.

As of November 10, 2022, 91% of VFC providers have ordered flu vaccine. If you need help with your VFC flu order, please call (347) 396-2489. Please do not allow your facility to run out of vaccine; if you need vaccine, contact us before your inventory gets too low.

Of concern, 9.4% fewer children have received flu vaccine this season compared to the same time last season. Take every opportunity to identify patients who still need their flu vaccine, using [Citywide Immunization Registry \(CIR\) tools](#), and bring them into your office as soon as possible for vaccination. Use all evidence-based strategies to increase flu vaccine uptake in your facility; for example, have the option for vaccination-only visits, evening and weekend hours, and vaccination clinics. Strategies for increasing immunization coverage can be found on the [American Academy of Pediatrics website](#).

Influenza viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 are both circulating. We would like to remind you that COVID-19 vaccine, including boosters, and the flu vaccine can be administered at the same visit for those eligible to receive both vaccines.

We would also like to remind you of the new preferential recommendation for people 65 years and older to receive high-dose, recombinant or adjuvanted flu vaccines due to [studies suggesting that](#) these vaccines are potentially more effective than standard dose unadjuvanted flu vaccines. The preference applies to Fluzone<sup>®</sup> High-Dose (HD-IIV4 [Sanofi]), Flublok<sup>®</sup> (RIV4 [Sanofi]), and Fludax<sup>®</sup> (aIIV4 [Seqirus]) vaccines.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bindy Crouch'.

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH  
Medical Director  
Immunization Infrastructure and  
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