



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

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Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

***** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE AND OFFICE STAFF *****

September 27, 2007

Dear Colleague:

It is time to begin vaccination for the 2007-2008 influenza season. This year, more than 130 million doses are expected to be produced, a record amount. Distribution of inactivated vaccine has started to both the public and private sectors. The Department of Health has received its initial shipments of influenza vaccine for Vaccines for Children (VFC) eligible children. We have received multi-dose vials and lesser amounts of preservative-free product. We have started shipping to providers, in most cases providing partial shipments so that you can start vaccinating children. We will continue to ship vaccine as it received – we are not expecting any problems with supply. If you have not already ordered your VFC influenza vaccine, please do so immediately (call 212-447-8175 or fax your order to 212-447-8196).

All children and adolescents meeting the criteria below should receive influenza vaccine:

- All children 6 months to 59 months of age,
- All persons 5-18 years of age with chronic medical conditions including asthma and diabetes or who are residents of long-term care facilities, chronic care facilities or nursing homes,
- All household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 5 years of age or any high-risk individuals.

All children, including school-aged children, can be vaccinated to reduce their risk of getting sick with the flu or giving it to others.

All children <9 years of age should receive 2 doses of influenza vaccine if they have not previously received flu vaccine. A change in this year's recommendation is for children <9 years of age who received only 1 dose of influenza vaccine in their first season of vaccination to receive 2 doses the following year. Once a child <9 years of age has received 2 doses of vaccine, either in the same season or in different seasons, the child should receive only one dose each year from that time on.

The live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), FluMist[®], is now licensed for use in children as young as two years of age. The spray volume has been reduced and LAIV is now stored in the refrigerator.

Additional information is available at www.nyc.gov/health/flu and www.cdc.gov/flu, including a list of distributors with vaccine available for private purchase. All doses of any vaccine administered to children <19 years of age in New York City must be reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). For questions about the CIR, please call 212-676-2323. For professional or technical questions, please call the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2259.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, M.D., M.Sc.
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

Reminder - All health care workers need an annual influenza vaccination!