



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

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

2 Lafayette Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10007

April 16, 2010

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to advise you that starting April 18, 2010, H1N1 influenza vaccinations administered to individuals age 19 and older may only be reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) with written consent of the vaccinee, in accordance with Public Health Law § 2168(3)(a) and New York City Health Code Section 11.07(a)(3).

This change will occur because Executive Order 29, which declared a State disaster emergency and authorized the suspension of the CIR's consent requirement for individuals age 19 and older, expires on April 17, 2010.

The consent requirement to report H1N1 doses administered to individuals 19 and older is based on date of vaccine administration. Therefore, all H1N1 doses administered to individuals before April 18, 2010 must be reported to the CIR and do not require consent.

The H1N1 virus is still circulating and vaccination provides the best protection against influenza. Therefore, we urge you to continue to offer the H1N1 vaccine to your patients as they are seen. When vaccinating patients age 19 and older, please be sure to obtain written consent before submitting the doses administered information to the CIR. The attached consent form may be used for that purpose. The consent form can also be found at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/cir/consent103mr_1.pdf

The expiration of the Executive Order does not impact the reporting of all vaccines, including H1N1, administered to individuals age 18 and younger to the CIR as required. In addition to H1N1 influenza, we encourage you to report to the CIR all vaccines administered to patients age 19 and older with written consent. If you have any questions, or for assistance with reporting, please call the CIR hotline at (212) 676-2323.

Again, we thank you for your participation in this important vaccination effort.

Sincerely,

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

Jane R. Zucker, M.D., M.Sc.