



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

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

July 14, 2009

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Dear Colleague:

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

The Bureau of Immunization will begin providing vaccines for your underinsured patients < 19 years of age on August 1, 2009. An “underinsured” patient is a child or adolescent who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, or covers only selected vaccines, or caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount.

These vaccines will be distributed through our Vaccines for Children (VFC) program in the same way that vaccines for both VFC and Child Health Plus B patients are currently distributed. All vaccines currently offered by the VFC program will be available for your underinsured patients. Starting August 1st, you may order vaccines for underinsured patients by calling VFC at (212) 447-8175.

To account for the administration of vaccines to underinsured patients, you will need to adhere to our current doses administered policy. You must report the patient’s VFC eligibility status to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) as INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER VACCINE. This will be a requirement in order to receive these vaccines. If you are unable to report the patient’s eligibility, you may not order vaccines for your underinsured patients. Failure to report all vaccine doses administered to the CIR will reduce the amount of future vaccine shipments.

For questions about this new policy or about reporting to the CIR, please call (212) 676-2323.

We look forward to working with you to make vaccines available to protect all New York City children from vaccine-preventable diseases. We thank you for your continuing efforts to fully vaccinate all of your patients.

Sincerely,

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

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