



**New York City Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene**

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Dear Colleague,

Vaccine-preventable diseases kill thousands of adults each year in New York City. Influenza and pneumonia together remain the third leading cause of death. While immunizations are one of the most effective ways to combat vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccine coverage rates in the city and across the United States remain low. As a result, the New York City Health Department created this toolkit to provide you with evidence-based tools and guidance that will help you increase adult vaccination rates at your facility.

This toolkit includes important information about the National Vaccine Advisory Committee's Standards for Adult Immunization Practice. The Standards help providers make sure their adult patients are up-to-date on the 15 vaccines currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Standards are supported by the CDC and many national medical provider associations.

This toolkit covers the Standards' four objectives:

1. **Assess** the immunization status of all adult patients at every clinical encounter.
2. Strongly **recommend** vaccines that adult patients need.
3. **Administer** needed vaccines or **refer** patients to a provider who can.
4. **Document** vaccines received by your adult patients and report vaccinations given to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).

We look forward to working with you to increase vaccination rates among your adult patients. Together we can use effective adult immunization strategies to improve and protect the health of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary T. Bassett'.

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene