

A message from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner

September 3, 2025

Dear Provider:

Initial distribution of seasonal flu vaccine for the 2025–2026 season has begun.

Flu vaccine continues to be recommended for all people 6 months of age and older, with rare exceptions. Please vaccinate all your patients and staff, especially those at high risk for severe disease and complications from influenza, including children less than 5 years of age, people with underlying chronic medical conditions, pregnant persons, and people ≥ 65 years of age.

September and October are the best months for most people to get vaccinated. During the past few seasons, clinical laboratories that perform testing for New York City (NYC) residents reported positive influenza test results as late as May. Continue to offer vaccination for as long as influenza viruses are circulating, through spring 2026 or later.

All children 6 through 59 months of age enrolled in NYC Article 47 and 43 regulated child care, Head Start, nursery and prekindergarten programs must receive one dose of flu vaccine between July 1 and December 31 of each year. Although some children may need a second dose in accordance with clinical recommendations, the second dose is not required for program attendance.

Flu Vaccine Updates for the 2025-2026 Season

All flu vaccines for the 2025-2026 season are trivalent, as they were for the 2024-2025 influenza season.

- Egg-based vaccines for the upcoming influenza season contain an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, an A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

- Cell- or recombinant-based vaccines contain an A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, an A/District of Columbia/27/2023 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

FluMist (live-attenuated influenza vaccine quadrivalent [LAIV3, AstraZeneca]) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for self- or caregiver administration, but is not yet available for self-administration in New York State (NYS). In NYS, FluMist must be administered by a health care provider at this time.

Flublok (RIV3, Sanofi), the recombinant flu vaccine that was previously approved by the FDA for use in persons ≥ 18 years of age, is now approved for those ≥ 9 years of age. It is not available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

For the 2025-2026 influenza season, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends seasonal flu vaccination with single-dose formulations that do not contain thimerosal. VFC program flu vaccine orders will therefore be limited to single-dose formulations. Numerous studies have demonstrated no evidence of harm from thimerosal in vaccines, including no link between thimerosal and autism spectrum disorder or other neurodevelopmental disorders. Additional information about thimerosal for you and your patients is available from the [New York State Department of Health](#) and the [Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#).

As a reminder, health care providers in NYS are required by Public Health Law (PHL) §2112 to use vaccines that do not contain more than trace amounts of thimerosal when vaccinating children < 3 years of age and pregnant women, with certain exceptions. If providers have in good faith sought out flu vaccine that complies with PHL § 2112, but cannot obtain such vaccine, they may administer a vaccine containing thimerosal to children < 3 years of age and pregnant women after obtaining informed consent in writing or verbally.

Vaccinating Children 6 Months Through 8 Years of Age

In the 2025-2026 season, the recommendation for flu vaccination of children 6 months through 8 years of age is unchanged.

- Children in this age group who have not received two doses of flu vaccine prior to July 1, 2025, will require two doses, administered at least four weeks apart.
- The two previous doses do not need to have been given during the same season or consecutive seasons.
- Children in this age group who have previously received two doses prior to July 1, 2025, will need only one dose this season.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

The New York City (NYC) Health Department is now accepting VFC program flu vaccine orders.

- VFC program flu vaccine ordering is no longer a separate process and prebooking for the entire season is no longer available. Submit your orders as needed throughout the season.
- All VFC program orders must be placed electronically, using the [Online Registry](#).
- After logging into the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), click on the Vaccine Inventory Management (VIM) icon, select the Order VFC/VFA Vaccine tab, confirm your storage and upload your digital data logger thermometer summary reports in step 2, adjust your inventory in step 3, then proceed to step 4 to enter your order quantity for at least one of the flu vaccine brands listed.
- You will be able to track your flu vaccine shipments in the Online Registry.

The CDC has instituted VFC program vaccine allocation caps for the start of the 2025-2026 flu season. As a result, actual doses shipped may be less than the number of doses requested in an order.

- If you do not receive your full order, a subsequent order must be placed in the [Online Registry](#) to receive additional doses.
- We expect to be able to supply you with enough flu vaccine to immunize all your VFC-eligible patients.

The following presentations of flu vaccine can be used for children 6 months of age or older and are available to order:

- 0.5 mL single-dose pre-filled syringe of Fluzone (IIV3, Sanofi)
- 0.5 mL single-dose pre-filled syringe of Fluarix (IIV3, GSK)
- 0.5 mL single-dose pre-filled syringe of FluLaval (IIV3, GSK)

A limited amount of Flucelvax (ccIIV3, Seqirus), the cell culture-based flu vaccine licensed for patients starting at 6 months of age, is also available through the VFC program, in single-dose pre-filled syringes.

- Due to limited availability, providers will not be permitted to have Flucelvax as their only VFC program flu vaccine option in inventory and orders.
- If ordering Flucelvax, providers will be required to include other standard injectable flu vaccines in the order.

In addition, for children 2 through 18 years of age, FluMist is available to order.

Flu vaccine is not included in the doses administered report (DAR) calculation and providers will not be penalized for unused flu vaccine.

Vaccine Ordering for Non-VFC Eligible Children and Adults

To order vaccine for non-VFC eligible children and adults, contact the vaccine manufacturers or distributors.

- For a list of vaccine manufacturers and distributors, visit [Vaccine Manufacturers | Immunize.org](#).
- Confirm product availability directly with vaccine manufacturers and distributors.

Additional flu vaccine products are available through the commercial market this year:

- Afluria (Seqirus) is available for people ≥ 3 years of age.
 - Afluria is available in 0.5 mL single-dose pre-filled syringes and multi-dose vials.
 - A 0.25 mL dose of Afluria from a multi-dose vial may be used in non-VFC patients 6-35 months of age if there is no preservative-free flu vaccine available and informed consent has been obtained.
- Flublok is available for people ≥ 9 years of age.
- Fluzone High-Dose (HD-IIV3) and Fludac (aIIV3, Seqirus) are available for people ≥ 65 years of age.

Flu Vaccine Coverage

The troubling downward trend in flu vaccination in NYC continued during the 2024-2025 season and was well below the Healthy People 2030 goal of 70% coverage for all age groups except those 65 years and older.

Based on data from the CIR, only 43% of children 6 months to 17 years of age in NYC received at least one dose of flu vaccine during the 2024-2025 season. This represents a drop of 2 percentage-points from the previous season.

- Vaccine coverage among children varied by age, race, and ethnicity.
 - Among age categories, infants and young children 6 months to 4 years of age had the highest coverage (63%) and teens 13 to 17 years of age had the lowest coverage (35%).
 - Among racial and ethnic categories, Asian non-Hispanic children (70%) had the highest coverage and White and Black non-Hispanic children had the lowest coverage (each at 32%).

- NYC flu vaccine coverage data for children 6 months to 17 years is now available on the [Childhood Vaccination Data Explorer](#). Use this tool to view vaccination coverage in your patient catchment areas.

Disparities by age, race, and ethnicity also persisted for adult flu coverage. Adult flu coverage data in NYC is estimated based on self-reported data from the Community Health Survey. According to the 2024 survey:

- Overall self-reported adult flu coverage in NYC was 48% for everyone ≥18 years of age.
- Among adults ≥65 years of age, self-reported coverage was 69%.
- Among adults ≥18 years of age, Asian, non-Hispanic adults reported the highest coverage of any race or ethnicity (58%), followed by non-Hispanic White adults (50%), Hispanic/Latino adults (47%), and Black adults (39%).
 - Among adults ≥65 years of age, Asian, non-Hispanic adults reported the highest coverage of any race or ethnicity (80%), followed by Hispanic/Latino adults (71%), non-Hispanic White adults (70%), and Black adults (60%).

For current information about influenza, visit nyc.gov/flu. For questions about flu vaccine, email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. Providers can also call 347-396-2400 for general questions and 347-396-2489 for VFC program-specific questions.

As always, we will send out updates throughout the season to keep you informed. We thank you for helping to protect NYC residents from influenza.

Sincerely,

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization