December 2, 2025

Dear Provider:

This update summarizes influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity in New York City (NYC) and provides details about immunization recommendations, coverage, product availability, and distribution.

Respiratory illness data for NYC are available <u>here</u>, including information about cases, emergency department visits, and deaths, as well as demographic breakdowns, where available.

### Influenza

Influenza activity is increasing in NYC:

- Emergency department visits that resulted in an influenza diagnosis increased 142% between the weeks ending November 15 and November 22, 2025, and has been increasing since the week ending November 1. Laboratory-reported influenza cases increased 142% between November 15 and November 22, 2025, with increases across all age groups.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported so far this influenza season.

Flu vaccination coverage for children, as well as the number of flu vaccine doses administered to adults, is lower this year compared with the same time last year:

- Coverage for children 0 to 18 years has decreased by 7.5%.
- The number of doses administered to adults 19 years and older and reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) has decreased by 1.4%.
- Data are based on the CIR.

Flu vaccine administration should be a high priority at your facility:

- Order flu vaccine if you have not done so already.
- Identify patients who still need their flu vaccine and offer an appointment as soon as possible; <u>CIR tools</u> are available to assist.
- Use all <u>evidence-based strategies to increase vaccine uptake</u>; for example, have the option for vaccination-only and evening and weekend visits and offer a vaccination clinic.

For adults 65 years of age and older, higher-dose, adjuvanted, or recombinant flu vaccines are preferred over standard-dose unadjuvanted flu vaccines. Products preferred for this age group include Fluzone High-Dose (HD-IIV4, Sanofi), Fluad (aIIV4, Seqirus), and Flublok (RIV4, Sanofi). If none of these formulations are available, administer any other age-appropriate flu vaccine. Do not miss an opportunity to vaccinate.

People with an egg allergy no longer require special precautions or specific flu vaccine products. People who have experienced allergic reactions to egg beyond urticaria can be safely vaccinated in standard inpatient or outpatient medical settings, as long as personnel and equipment are available to promptly recognize and treat acute hypersensitivity reactions. All vaccines should be administered in settings equipped to recognize and manage severe allergic reactions.

# Vaccines for Children (VFC) flu vaccine supply and distribution

We have been allocated all the flu vaccine that we pre-booked from the VFC program, and 44% of this vaccine has been shipped to facilities. All VFC flu vaccination products are in good supply.

There is a replacement program for expired/expiring FluMist supplied by VFC for doses expiring on or before February 1, 2026. Contact the program by email (<a href="mailto:flumistreplacement@mckesson.com">flumistreplacement@mckesson.com</a>) or phone (877-633-7375) and provide the number of doses you need replaced, how many boxes you will need shipped, and your Provider Identification Number (PIN), then follow all instructions as provided by McKesson Specialty Health. Requests can be made December 1, 2025, through January 30, 2026, and all expired/expiring doses must be received by February 14, 2026. Replacement doses will not be shipped until your expired/expiring doses are received by McKesson.

## COVID-19

COVID-19 continues to circulate in NYC, though emergency department visits that resulted in a COVID-19 diagnosis decreased between early September and late October, and have been stable or decreasing in the past few weeks. COVID-19 typically increases during the late fall and winter months, but timing can vary, and COVID-19 has increased at other times of the year as well.

COVID-19 vaccine coverage for children, as well as the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered to adults, is lower this year compared with the same time last year:

- Coverage for children 0 to 18 years has decreased by 37.7%.
- The number of doses administered to adults 19 years and older and reported to the CIR has decreased by 29.7%.
- Data are based on the CIR.

COVID-19 vaccine guidance for NYC providers is available <a href="here">here</a>.

## VFC COVID-19 vaccine supply and distribution

Pediatric COVID-19 supply is currently adequate to meet demand. If you need vaccine, please order in the Online Registry.

### **RSV**

RSV activity in NYC is elevated. Emergency department visits that had an RSV diagnosis increased 71% between the weeks ending November 15 and November 22, 2025.

RSV guidance for providers in NYC is available <u>here</u>. There are several immunization options that protect against RSV in older adults, infants, and young children:

- RSV vaccination for pregnant people in NYC is recommended from September until January 31, if the pregnant person was not vaccinated against RSV before.
- Administration of monoclonal antibodies (mAb) for infants and young children in NYC is recommended from October 1 until March 31, if the birthing parent was not vaccinated during the current pregnancy.
- Eligible older adults, who are those 75 years of age and older and those 50 through 74 years of age with a risk factor for severe disease, can get an RSV vaccine at any time.

If you provide care to infants in the outpatient setting during RSV season, be sure to determine if that infant received nirsevimab (Beyfortus, Sanofi) or clesrovimab (Enflonsia, Merck), or if their pregnant parent received Abrysvo (RSVpreF, Pfizer) between 32 and 36 weeks' gestation and the infant was born at least 14 days after Abrysvo administration. Administer nirsevimab or clesrovimab if needed. If you cannot find evidence of nirsevimab or clesrovimab administration in the infant's electronic health record, look for evidence of RSV immunization in the CIR, in both the infant's and the pregnant parent's records.

If you provide prenatal care, remember to report all doses of Abrysvo administered to pregnant persons to the CIR so that health care providers taking care of newborns can determine the need for immunization of the infant. Immunization of persons 19 years of age and older may be reported to the CIR with oral or written consent from the patient.

# VFC RSV immunization products' supply and distribution

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue sending pre-determined amounts of nirsevimab and clesrovimab doses on a pre-set schedule throughout the RSV season to the NYC VFC program for distribution. Currently, supply of RSV-mAb is adequate to meet providers' requests and no shortage is anticipated.

Co-administration of flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines for those eligible to receive all three vaccines is safe, effective, and convenient.

Email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or call 347-396-2400 with any questions. Thank you for your continuing efforts in protecting NYC residents from influenza, COVID-19, and RSV.

Sincerely,

The day Crown

Bindy Crouch, MD, MPH Assistant Commissioner Bureau of Immunization