



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Alister F. Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner

Dear Provider,

Initial distribution of seasonal flu vaccine for 2026–2027 has begun.

The New York City (NYC) Health Department and the New York State Department of Health recently [endorsed annual respiratory season immunization recommendations](#) released by the specialty medical associations, including those for flu vaccination. Flu vaccination continues to be recommended for all people ages 6 months 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 younger 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. Continue to offer vaccination for as long as influenza viruses are circulating, through spring 2027 or later. During the past few seasons, clinical laboratories that perform testing for NYC residents reported positive influenza test results as late as May.

All children ages 6 months through 59 months enrolled in NYC Article 47 and 43 regulated child care, Head Start, nursery and pre-kindergarten 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 Vaccination Updates for the 2026-2027 Season

All flu vaccines for the 2026-2027 season are trivalent, as they were for the 2025-2026 influenza season.

- Egg-based vaccines for the upcoming influenza season contain an A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, an A/Darwin/1454/2025 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Tokyo/EIS13-175/2025 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.
- Cell- or recombinant-based vaccines contain an A/Missouri/11/2025 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus, an A/Darwin/1415/2025 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Pennsylvania/14/2025 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

As a reminder, health care providers in New York State are required by New York State Public Health Law §2112 to use vaccines that do not contain more than trace amounts of thimerosal when vaccinating children <3 years of age and pregnant people, with certain exceptions. The only flu vaccine formulation with thimerosal is private-purchase flu vaccine in a multi-dose vial. If providers have in good faith sought out flu vaccine that complies with §2112, but cannot obtain such vaccine, they may administer a vaccine containing thimerosal to children <3 years of age and pregnant people after obtaining informed consent in writing or orally.

Vaccinating Children Ages 6 Months Through 8 Years

In the 2026-2027 season, the recommendation for flu vaccination of children ages 6 months through 8 years is unchanged.

- Children in this age group who have not received two doses of flu vaccine prior to July 1, 2026, 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, 2026, will need only one dose this season.

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

The NYC Health Department is now accepting VFC program flu vaccine orders.

- VFC program flu vaccine prebooking for the entire season is not 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, and 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 2026-2027 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 through the VFC program:

- 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)
- 0.5 mL single-dose pre-filled syringe of Flucelvax (IIV3, Seqirus)
- 0.2 mL single-dose nasal spray of FluMist (LAIV3, AstraZeneca)

Flu vaccine is not included in the doses administered report (DAR) calculation and providers will not be penalized for unused flu vaccine. For more information on the DAR, refer to the [Provider Quality Report Dashboard Guide](#). To access your DAR, log onto the [Online Registry](#), click on "Dashboards" on the top row, then on Facility-Level Provider Quarterly Report.

Vaccine Ordering for Adults and Non-VFC Eligible Children

To order vaccine for adults and non-VFC eligible children, 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:

- Flublok is available for people ≥9 years of age.
- Fluzone High-Dose (HD-IIV3) and Fluad (aIIV3, Seqirus) are available for people ≥65 years of age.
- The Food and Drug administration (FDA) recently approved Moderna's mRNA-based flu vaccine, mFlusiva, for people ≥50 years of age. Its use in persons ≥65 years of age is [preferentially recommended](#), along with Flublok, Fluzone High-Dose, and Fluad.
- FluMist Home will also be available in New York this year. For additional information on the program and how patients can access, please see [AztraZeneca's website](#). Please note that healthcare providers can enter patients' FluMist Home doses into the CIR as per routine reporting of historical immunization doses.

Afluria (IIV3, Seqirus), offered in past seasons, will not be available for the 2026-2027 flu season.

Flu Vaccination Coverage

The troubling downward trend in pediatric flu vaccination in NYC continued during the 2025-2026 season and was well below the Healthy People 2030 goal of 70% coverage for all age groups.

Based on data from the CIR, only 40% of children 6 months to 17 years of age in NYC received at least one dose of flu vaccine during the 2025-2026 season. This represents a drop of 3 percentage points from the previous season.

Vaccination 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 (58%) and teens 13 to 17 years of age had the lowest coverage (32%).
- Among racial and ethnic categories, Asian non-Hispanic children had the highest coverage (66%) and Black non-Hispanic children had the lowest coverage (30%).

NYC flu vaccination coverage data for children 6 months to 17 years is 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 2025 survey:

- Overall self-reported adult flu coverage in NYC was 46.4% for everyone ≥18 years of age.
- Among adults ≥65 years of age, self-reported coverage was 65.6%.
- Among adults ≥18 years of age, Asian/Pacific Islanders, non-Hispanic adults reported the highest coverage of any race or ethnicity (57.5%), followed by non-Hispanic White adults (50.9%), Hispanic/Latino adults (42.0%), and Black adults (36.9%).
- Among adults ≥65 years of age, Asian/Pacific Islanders, non-Hispanic adults reported the highest coverage of any race or ethnicity (74.0%), followed by non-Hispanic White adults (68.3%), Hispanic/Latino adults (60.7%), and Black adults (58.4%).

For current information about influenza from the NYC Health Department, visit [Immunization Information for Health Care Professionals](#).

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. Thank you for helping to protect New Yorkers from influenza.

Sincerely,

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