



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

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

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

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Dear Colleague:

This is a weekly update on the availability and distribution of H1N1 vaccine. As of Friday, November 27th, 1,693,100 doses were allocated to New York City (NYC) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); 98% of this vaccine has been allocated.

Approximately 2,600 providers have had vaccine orders filled. This past week, doses of vaccine were allocated to internal medicine physicians and other specialty practices, pediatric providers were re-supplied based on doses reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) and additional doses were allocated to hospitals and community health centers as needed. We have been told by the CDC that the amount of vaccine it will make available to New York City for the month of December is lower than they originally projected. Therefore, we are still shipping partial orders to ensure that the maximum number of providers receive some vaccine. Once again, we ask you to be patient as more H1N1 vaccine becomes available.

There continue to be only limited amounts of the pediatric formulations of the H1N1 vaccine available. Only 7% of all vaccine allocated has been in the form of 0.25 ml pre-filled syringes. All orders are being reviewed to ensure that every pediatric provider receives vaccine that can be used for the 6 month to 4 year-old age group. If the 0.25 pre-filled syringes are not available, Sanofi or CSL multi-dose vials will be substituted.

The preferred options for vaccinating children less than 4 years of age and at least 6 months of age are outlined below:

- For children 6 months to 35 months, either a 0.25 ml pre-filled syringe **or a dose of 0.25 ml drawn from a multi-dose vial** may be used. Products from the manufacturers Sanofi and CSL are approved for use in children as young as 6 months of age. As a reminder, when administering thimerosal-containing influenza vaccine to a child less than 3 years old, you must obtain informed consent from the person authorized to consent on the patient's behalf.
- For healthy children two years of age and older, live-attenuated monovalent H1N1 influenza vaccine (LAIV) may be used.

- For children between three and four years of age, either a 0.5 ml pre-filled syringe **or a dose of 0.5 ml drawn from a multi-dose vial** may be used.

Two additional options are available for vaccinating children from 6 months to 4 years old.

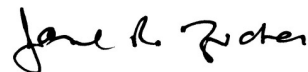
- If you have only 0.5 ml pre-filled syringes a half dose (0.25 ml) may be administered to children less than 3 years old, but the remainder of the dose must be discarded.
- If you have only 0.25 ml pre-filled syringes and need to vaccinate a child between 3 and 4 years of age, two doses may be administered as separate injections. You should not try to combine the doses into one syringe.

Vaccine manufactured by Novartis is not licensed for use in children less than 4 years of age.

Please be sure to report all H1N1 vaccinations to the CIR, as required. We will use this information to send shipments of additional vaccine. Also, we ask that you do not hold vaccine in reserve but rather administer vaccine to all eligible patients as they are seen. Providers reporting more than 50% of the doses received will be automatically re-supplied. If you are concerned about your vaccine supply or are running low, or if you have questions about CIR reporting, please e-mail us at nycflu@health.nyc.gov. Be sure to include your facility code and PIN# and any other pertinent information (for example, if you need a vaccine formulation for a specific population) in your e-mail so we can respond promptly.

We again thank you for your participation in this important vaccination effort.

Sincerely,



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