



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**
Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

September 2010

Dear Colleague:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is currently enrolling facilities to field test a new CDC-sponsored standardized measure to determine influenza vaccination coverage rates among healthcare personnel. This is a national multi-center project that will include hospitals, community health centers and other facility types.

We are asking if you would be willing to participate in this project. Your facility would be required to track influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel for the 2010-2011 season and requested to define and report their activities in the following areas:

- Definition of healthcare personnel
- Methods and data sources for capturing coverage rates, including tracking of declinations, medical contraindications and documented immunizations from other providers
- Protocols for reporting.

Annual influenza immunization has become the standard of care for healthcare personnel who may be at greater risk of transmitting influenza to high-risk patients. However, national influenza immunization coverage rates for healthcare personnel still remain at only ~40%. Given this new standard, your assistance in developing a consistent measure to determine coverage levels and to compare coverage across institutions is imperative to increasing health care personnel vaccination levels. Results from this pilot will be used to create a comprehensive and standardized measure that may be utilized by CMS or other organizations to measure performance in healthcare facilities.

Your participation in this project should involve little more time or effort than required for routine employee health tracking efforts. The DOHMH will provide technical support and tracking tools to facilities. Sites will also be requested to participate in periodic conference calls with other similar medical facilities to provide program updates, report on data collected and share best practices. Your facility may be asked to participate in a site visit for validation purposes. In exchange for your time and participation, DOHMH will be offering limited quantities of free influenza vaccine.

To enroll your facility, or for further information, please contact Dr. Anita Geevarughese in the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2282 or email at ageevarughese@health.nyc.gov.

Thank you for your participation in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Farley".

Thomas Farley, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner