



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

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

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

December 10, 2009

Dear Colleague:

Effective this Saturday, December 12, 2009, the New York City Health Department's weekend vaccination clinics for H1N1 influenza will be expanded to accommodate all persons at least four years of age, regardless of their health status or occupation. At the same time, providers using H1N1 vaccine received through the New York City Health Department may begin immunizing any patient over 6 months of age for whom H1N1 vaccine is not otherwise contraindicated. These changes are intended to increase attendance at the City's final weekend vaccination clinics and to ensure the fullest use of available vaccine supplies. As of December 9, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had made 2,250,000 doses of H1N1 influenza vaccine available to New York City. The New York City Health Department has placed orders for 95% of this available vaccine.

The Health Department continues to emphasize vaccination for those at higher risk of severe illness or complications from influenza: pregnant women, children and young adults between the ages of 6 months to 24 years, and people age 25 to 64 who have underlying health conditions that increase risk. The priority groups also include health care workers and caregivers of children less than 6 months old.

While providers should continue to counsel patients in these groups on the importance of H1N1 vaccination, they should *not* hold vaccine in reserve for high-risk patients. Please immunize all patients who *want* to be vaccinated as they are seen. The Health Department will provide you with additional vaccine as needed. If you are concerned about your vaccine supply or are running low, please e-mail us at nycflu@health.nyc.gov. Be sure to include your Facility Code and Pin Number and any other pertinent information so that we can respond promptly.

We again remind you that we are ordering additional vaccine doses for providers as they report the use of existing supplies through the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). When providers, community health centers and hospitals report that they have administered 50% of the doses received, they will be automatically re-supplied. If you have questions about CIR reporting or need assistance, please e-mail us at nycflu@health.nyc.gov. As always, we thank you for participating in this important vaccination effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

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