



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

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nyc.gov/health

2007 HEALTH UPDATE # 28: PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFLUENZA: KEY MESSAGES FOR THE 2007-2008 FLU SEASON

Please distribute to all clinical staff and administrators, including those in Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Laboratory Medicine, Infection Control, and Employee/Occupational Health.

September 25, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

The New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has issued a new edition of its City Health Information (CHI) publication entitled: "Prevention and Control of Influenza: Key Messages for the 2007-2008 Flu Season." This is the October 2007 issue of the monthly CHI publication, which is written for the medical community in NYC. If you subscribe to the CHI publication by mail you will receive a hard copy of this publication soon.

Every year, more than 200,000 people across the United States are hospitalized due to complications of influenza, such as pneumonia, and at least 36,000 people die as a result of the flu. In NYC, influenza and pneumonia combined were the third leading cause of death among people of all ages in 2005 and accounted for more than 1,000 deaths in those 65 years and older. The primary method for preventing influenza is vaccination. Yet, telephone surveys of NYC residents reveal that only 59% of adults aged 65 and up reported getting a flu shot during the 2005-2006 flu season. This publication was prepared by the NYC DOHMH to provide health care providers with guidance on how they can increase vaccination rates, the types, availability, and usage of flu vaccine. Key messages include:

- As soon as influenza vaccine becomes available—immunize! Continue vaccinating through June.
- Immunize patients when they come in for any office visit.
- All health care workers should receive an annual flu vaccine.
- Children <9 years of age who received only one dose of flu vaccine in their first flu season should get 2 doses of flu vaccine in their second year of vaccination.

This report is available in the HAN Document Library, in the immunization folder on the HAN Web site, and at the following Web site: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/chi/chi.shtml>. We have also attached the report as a PDF file.

On-line and hard-copy continuing medical education (CME) activities related to this report are available.

City Health Information has been published by the NYC DOHMH since 1982 to communicate public health information to the NYC health care community. The DOHMH produces 10-12 issues a year, focusing on timely public health topics. CHIs include: descriptive data; data analysis; practice guidelines; reports from DOHMH; federal, state, and local mandates, helpful resources, as well as CME and CNE activities.

For information about these activities, please visit:

www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cme/chicme.shtml

If you wish to be added to the CHI subscriber list, e-mail us at: nycdohrp@health.health.nyc.gov or call 212 676 2188. For an e-mail subscription, visit the CHI Web site at:

www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/chi/chi.shtml.

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Categories of urgency levels for NYC DOHMH Broadcast Notification System:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action