



Department of Health

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To: Healthcare Providers, Pharmacies and Local Health Departments
From: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Bureau of Immunization

HEALTH ADVISORY: 2023-2024 Influenza Season Vaccine Supply Determination

Please distribute to the Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Employee Health Services, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Director of Pharmacy, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and all primary care clinics.

SUMMARY

- Currently, influenza vaccine manufacturers are not reporting any influenza vaccine shortages nor significant delays in distribution this season.
- The Commissioner of Health has determined that it appears there will be an **adequate supply** of influenza vaccine which complies with the thresholds for thimerosal set forth in PHL § 2112 for the 2023-2024 influenza season. Of note, all single-dose preparations of influenza vaccine available in the United States are thimerosal-free.
- **Healthcare providers providing influenza vaccinations to pregnant people and/or to children less than 3 years of age must identify available sources of influenza vaccine that comply with the Thimerosal content [thresholds set forth in PHL § 2112](#) and administer it to the extent possible.**
- If demand for individual brands exceeds available supply, then healthcare providers should consider offering influenza vaccine brands other than their preferred brands.
- **Healthcare providers should not defer influenza vaccination due to lack of a preferred brand if another age-appropriate brand is available.** The CDC has made a preferential recommendation for influenza vaccine for those 65 years and older to receive either high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine, recombinant influenza vaccine, or adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine. If none of these are available during an opportunity to vaccinate, then any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used. **Egg allergy is no longer a contraindication for influenza vaccination and additional precautions are not needed.** All vaccines should be administered in a setting with personnel and equipment to respond to potential acute hypersensitivity reactions.

Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

- The CDC and NYSDOH both strongly recommend that all persons aged 6 months and older get the influenza vaccine.
- Influenza vaccination is especially important for persons who are at high risk for influenza-related complications, including pregnant people, ~~and~~ adults 65 years and older,

children younger than 5 years old, and people with chronic health conditions ([People at Higher Risk of Flu Complications | CDC](#)).

- People who take care of, or live with, individuals who are at high risk for influenza-related complications should also be vaccinated against influenza. All healthcare workers should be vaccinated because of the risk of acquiring and transmitting influenza to others.
- Healthcare providers should not defer influenza vaccination due to lack of a preferred brand if another age-appropriate brand is available.
- The CDC has made a preferential recommendation for influenza vaccine for those 65 years and older to receive either high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine, recombinant influenza vaccine, or adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine. If none of these are available during an opportunity to vaccinate, then any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not preferentially recommend any brand of influenza vaccine for other age groups.
- Influenza vaccine should continue to be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating locally, and unexpired vaccine is available. Typically, influenza cases are reported well into the spring.

2023-2024 Influenza Seasonal Vaccine Supply Determination as Required by Public Health Law § 2112

- New York State Public Health Law (PHL) § 2112 prohibits the administration of influenza vaccines containing more than trace amounts of thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative, to children less than 3 years of age and women who know they are pregnant. Of note, all single-dose preparations of influenza vaccine available in the United States are thimerosal-free. Only multidose vials contain thimerosal.
- Pursuant to PHL § 2112(3), the Commissioner of Health has determined that it appears there will be an adequate supply of influenza vaccine for children less than 3 years of age and pregnant people, which complies with the thresholds set forth in PHL § 2112(3) for the 2023-2024 influenza season. Therefore, health care providers (physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, pharmacists) providing influenza vaccinations to pregnant people must identify available sources of such vaccine and administer it to the extent it is available. Children less than 3 years of age must continue to be administered vaccine that complies with PHL § 2112(2), provided there are no distribution issues, as described below.
- On occasion some influenza vaccine manufacturers may complete vaccine shipments later than other manufacturers, and some health care providers may not initially have an adequate supply of vaccine that complies with PHL § 2112. Therefore, in accordance with PHL § 2112(5), in instances when health care providers have in good faith sought out influenza vaccine that complies with PHL § 2112(2) and (3), and such vaccine cannot be obtained or has been ordered but not yet received, children less than 3 years of age and pregnant people should be offered available influenza vaccine. There is no proven risk from thimerosal-containing vaccine, and the substantial risk of complications or death from influenza disease in these groups outweighs the risk of vaccination. A parent/guardian of a child less than 3 years of age and pregnant people **must provide informed consent** prior to administration of vaccine that contains more than trace amounts of thimerosal. It is recommended that providers document such informed consent. Additionally, a provider's good faith efforts to obtain vaccine that complies with PHL § 2112(2) and (3) should be documented in the medical record and reflect the attempts made to locate and obtain such vaccine.

- NYSDOH will monitor influenza vaccine supplies throughout the season and may modify this determination, if needed.

Influenza Vaccine Availability

- The CDC and vaccine manufacturers project that they will supply as many as 156 to 170 million doses of influenza vaccine for the 2023-2024 season. Neither the CDC nor influenza vaccine manufacturers currently report any influenza vaccine shortages or significant delays in distribution.
- Providers seeking to order additional influenza vaccine are recommended to check the Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) at <https://www.izsummitpartners.org/ivats/>. IVATS, supported by the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit, contains information from approved, enrolled, and participating wholesale influenza vaccine distributors or manufacturers and is updated regularly throughout the influenza season. Healthcare providers ordering additional influenza vaccine mid-season may need to use different vaccine suppliers or brands than their preferred suppliers or brands.
- Providers enrolled in the NYS Vaccines for Children (VFC), or Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs can place additional influenza vaccine orders for their eligible patients in the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). Please note that influenza vaccine doses administered must be accurately reported to NYSIIS before additional orders will be placed. If you have any questions, please call the VFC Call Center at 1-800-543-7468.
- Providers who do not administer influenza vaccine and seek to refer patients for influenza vaccination can use the vaccine finder at <http://www.vaccines.gov> to identify locations offering influenza vaccination in their community.

RESOURCES

- NYSDOH Influenza web page: <https://health.ny.gov/flu>
- Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023-24 Influenza Season: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/rr/rr7202a1.htm>
- CDC Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Supply for the U.S. 2023-2024 Influenza Season: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaxsupply.htm>
- A list of all vaccine formulations and manufacturers is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/2022-2023/acip-table.htm>.
- CDC Influenza Vaccine Information for Health Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>
- CDC Information for the 2023-2024 Flu Season: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2023-2024.htm>
- For additional information, please contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization at 518-473-4437 or immunize@health.ny.gov.