



Department of Health

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To: Hospitals

From: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Bureau of Immunization

INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE:

Requirements for Offering Influenza Vaccines in New York State (NYS) Hospitals

Please distribute to the Medical Director, Director of Nursing, Director of Neonatology, Infectious Disease Department, and all patient care areas.

Summary

The purpose of this informational message is to remind New York State hospitals of the requirements for offering influenza vaccination to parents and anticipated caregivers of neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) patients and to each admitted person age sixty-five years or older pursuant to NYS Public Health Law (PHL) section 2805-h.

Requirement in NICUs:

- New York State Public Health Law (PHL) section 2805-h requires all hospitals with NICUs to offer influenza vaccination annually, between September 1st and April 1st, to all parents or persons in parental relation who are reasonably anticipated to be caregivers in the households of newborns being treated in NICUs.
- Influenza vaccines are not licensed for children aged less than six months.
- To protect young infants, who have hospitalization rates due to influenza that are similar to those observed among the elderly, immunization of infants' close contacts is critical.

Requirement for admitted persons age sixty-five years or older:

- PHL 2805-h requires that the administrative officer, or other person in charge of each hospital, must ensure that influenza vaccine is offered to each admitted person aged 65 years or older. The requirement applies to all patients admitted between September 1st and April 1st.

Hospitals must take steps to adopt and implement both policies as required under law.

- We strongly encourage you to continue your vaccination efforts against influenza even after the April 1st date required by law, as flu season often persists into the late spring.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Should you need further assistance, please call the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization at (518) 473-4437.