

Dear New York State H1N1 Influenza Vaccine Provider:

February 19, 2010

This message:

- Requests that you continue to vaccinate patients for H1N1 influenza and retain your current stocks of vaccine in case there is a disease resurgence;
- Reminds you about the need for a second dose of H1N1 vaccine for children <10 years of age;
- Reminds you to report all vaccine doses administered.

Continue to vaccinate for H1N1 influenza and retain current vaccine stocks. January through March is the traditional influenza season. While disease activity is now low, there is a real possibility of an additional wave of pandemic H1N1 influenza disease, similar to what happened in the 1957-1958 pandemic. As a result, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is encouraging you to:

- Continue to offer and encourage H1N1 influenza vaccination to your patients;
- Retain your current supply of H1N1 influenza vaccine in your office, unless you do not have sufficient space to store it. Contact your city/county health department if you have vaccine that you are unable to store;
- Instructions on what to do with unused vaccine will be provided in the future.

Reminder on second vaccine doses for children less than 10. Children less than 10 years old are recommended to get a second dose of H1N1 vaccine at least 28 days after the first dose. The state immunization registry, NYSIIS, or the New York City registry, CIR, can be used to check on which children need a second dose and can generate reminder lists and letters.

- Either nasal spray (if appropriate for the patient in question) or injectable vaccine may be used for the second dose regardless of the type of vaccine administered for the first dose.
- Pre-filled 0.25 ml syringes for children under age 3 years are no longer available. Please use vaccine from multi-dose vials for second doses of injectable vaccine.
- NYSDOH has waived the provisions of state law which usually restricts the use of thimerosal-containing influenza vaccines in pregnant women and children under the age of 3 years. There is no scientific evidence of harm caused by the low doses of thimerosal in vaccines. For more information, see:
http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/health_care_providers/frequently_asked_questions/vaccine_containing_thimerosal.htm

Reminder to report vaccine doses administered. The federal provider agreement which you signed to receive H1N1 influenza vaccine commits you to report vaccine usage.

- Vaccine given to persons less than 19 years of age must be reported by state law to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). For more information, see:
http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/immunization/information_system/
- Doses given to persons age 19 years and older may be reported to NYSIIS, or aggregate doses administered must be reported to the NYSDOH telephone or web-based systems. See:
http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/health_care_providers/vaccine/docs/vaccine_reporting_requirements.pdf
- Providers in New York City should report all H1N1 doses administered to the New York City Immunization Registry (CIR). Call the *NYC Vaccine Hotline*: 1-212-676-2259 for more information.

Please call 1-800 KID-SHOT if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued efforts to vaccinate New Yorkers against influenza.