

Influenza Vaccine Ordering for 2008-09- June 2008

Influenza vaccine should be in plentiful supply this year. Vaccine is now being pre-booked. Providers who have not yet ordered flu vaccine should contact flu vaccine manufacturers or those pharmaceutical vendors that distribute vaccine now, to ensure all patients needing their vaccine will be immunized during flu season.

There are five influenza vaccine manufacturers in the United States this season:

- **Sanofi Pasteur Inc. produces Fluzone®** inactivated influenza virus vaccine in adult and pediatric formulations (six months and older). To contact them for information, log on to www.vaccineshoppe.com or phone 1-800-822-2463.
- **Novartis produces Fluvirin®** inactivated influenza virus vaccine. Fluvirin® is indicated for use in persons 4 years of age and older. www.chiron.com
- **GlaxoSmithKline produces Fluarix®** inactivated influenza virus vaccine, which is licensed for use in persons 18 years of age and older. www.gsk.com.
- **MedImmune, Inc produces FluMist®**, a live attenuated intranasal influenza virus vaccine. This intranasal vaccine is only for use in healthy people 2 - 49 years of age. For information or ordering call 1-877-FLUMIST (358-6478).
- **CSL Biotherapies produces Afluria®** inactivated influenza virus vaccine, licensed for persons 18 years of age and older. www.cslbiotherapies-us.com.

One or more of these products may be available at one of the vaccine distributors listed below. In addition to this list of distributors, more distributors can be found at: http://www.hida.org/document.asp?document_id=10082. Product availability may fluctuate. Contact your distributor for the most up-to-date information.

ASD Healthcare *	Phone: (866)-281-4FLU (4358) Web: www.asdhealthcare.com
Besse Medical *	Phone: (800)-543-2111 Web: www.besse.com
CuraScript (formerly Priority Healthcare)	Phone: (877)-599-7748 Web: http://www.curascript.com
FFF Enterprises	Phone: (800)-843-7477 Web: www.fffenterprises.com
General Injectables and Vaccine, Inc	Phone: (800)-521-7468 Web: www.giv.com
Henry Schein	Phone: (800)-772-4346 Web: www.henryschein.com
Henry Schein/Caligor	Phone: (888)-225-4467 Web: www.caligor.com
McKesson *	Phone: (877)-625-4358 Web: www.mckesson.com
Moore Medical *	Phone: (800)-234-1464 Web: www.mooremedical.com
Nationwide Medical	Phone: (800)-997-8846 Web: www.nationwidemedical.net
Prodigy Health Supplier	Phone: (877)- 693-4376 Web: www.phscorporation.com
PSS / World Medical	Phone: (904)-332-3000 Web: www.pssworldmedical.com
Seacoast Medical	Phone: (800)-732-2115 Web: www.seacoastmedical.com

*These distributors also offer FluMist

Who Should Receive an Influenza Vaccine in 2008-2009

The CDC estimates that influenza causes 36,000 deaths and 226,000 excess hospitalizations annually in the United States. In New York City, influenza and pneumonia combined are the third leading cause of death. The following persons are at highest risk of complications from influenza and should receive an annual flu shot:

- All people age 50 years and older, especially those 65 years and older;
- All children 6 months to 18 years of age;
- All persons 19 to 49 years with long-term health problems, including: metabolic disease, pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, renal disease, sickle cell anemia, muscle or nerve disorders (such as seizure disorders or severe cerebral palsy) that can cause breathing or swallowing problems;
- All people with conditions that compromise immunity;
- All health care workers;
- Pregnant women.

How to Determine How Much Influenza Vaccine You Need

The following table can be used to calculate how many patients in your practice will need influenza vaccine. Tally the number of your patients who are at risk of complications due to influenza or wish to protect their health by getting vaccinated against flu and total on the right hand column in the chart below. Remember that you and your staff need to be vaccinated against flu to protect your patients. **Note:** Children under nine receiving influenza vaccine for the first time will need two doses, given at least one month apart; figure this in your ordering.

Type of Health Risk	Tally Number of Patients	Total
Age 50 years and over		
Age 6 months-18 years		
Patients 19-49 years with:		
Metabolic disease		
Immunosuppressive conditions		
Cardiovascular, pulmonary and renal disease		
Sickle cell		
Pregnancy		
Muscle or nerve disorders that can cause breathing or swallowing problems		
Any close contacts of above mentioned groups (6 months and older)		
Health care personnel (<i>add your staff here</i>)		
Others who request flu vaccine		
	Grand Total	

Pneumococcal Vaccine

Remember to Order and Administer Pneumococcal Vaccine: According to the CDC, up to 20,000 people die from vaccine-preventable pneumococcal disease every year, and vaccination rates are especially low in New York; only 48% of people over 65 have been vaccinated against pneumococcal disease. Ensure that all adults at risk for pneumococcal disease have received pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV23). Patients 65 and older or with certain medical conditions (see below) need this vaccine at least once in their lifetime. There is no need to wait until October to vaccinate your patients against pneumococcal disease. Unlike flu vaccine, PPV23 can be administered throughout the year. To purchase PPV23, contact your pharmaceutical distributor, visit the Merck website at, <https://www.merckvaccines.com> or call Merck at 800-637-2579.

For more information on pneumococcal pneumonia, visit the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/>

Who Should Receive Pneumococcal Vaccine

- All adults 65 years of age and older.
- All persons 2 years of age and older with:
 - Chronic illness such as diabetes, heart or lung diseases;
 - Anatomic or functional asplenia (without a spleen);
 - All people with conditions that compromise immunity
 - HIV infection.

Reimbursement and Information

Medicare reimburses both for the cost of influenza and pneumococcal vaccine and for the cost of administration. In addition, many health insurance companies cover influenza vaccine administration, especially for high-risk patients. Consult the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at 877-267-2323 or <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>, or the insurance agency for current billing information.

For more influenza and pneumococcal information, contact the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/imm/fluhome.html> or email us at: NYCflu@health.nyc.gov