



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Jefferson County Public Health Service Reports Adequate Supply of Influenza Vaccine in Jefferson County During This Flu Emergency

Watertown, NY, January 24, 2012 ~ The Jefferson County Public Health Service continues to respond to the Governor's declared influenza emergency. The Jefferson County pediatricians and pharmacies continue to report a good supply of vaccine within the county for both children and adults.

Although spot shortages of flu vaccine may occur, these shortages reflect uneven distribution, not a supply crisis. The National Influenza Vaccine Summit established the Influenza Vaccine Availability Tracking System (IVATS) to address difficulties healthcare providers may experience when trying to determine which wholesale distributors or manufacturers have seasonal influenza vaccine in stock for sale or on order. One manufacturer is now producing more vaccine which should be available by the end of January.

Most providers order influenza vaccine for the coming vaccination season in the winter and spring of the preceding year. Depending on many factors, orders can be placed directly with a distributor, the State's VFC program, or a group purchasing arrangement with the manufacturer. During vaccination seasons when vaccine supply is challenged, IVATS becomes operational. The system was activated in early November 2012 in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy when many clinics were without power and consequently lost their vaccine supplies. IVATS enables healthcare providers to view at a glance which distributors have vaccine available to sell. Medical providers may check preventinfluenza.org for suppliers who have vaccine to sell. The New York State Department of Health (NYS-DOH) has created a page on the Health Commerce System (HCS) to allow providers with vaccine to redistribute and those in need of vaccine to post their information on a secure site. This NYS-DOH initiative will enable influenza vaccine to be redistributed to areas with spot shortages.

For individuals seeking a flu vaccination, the Jefferson County Public Health Service urges people to consult their medical provider or flu.gov. At this website a person can enter a zip code and find locations to receive a flu vaccination. It is not too late to receive a vaccination, in fact public health officials are highly encouraging those who have not received a dose to do so immediately due to this influenza emergency.

Providers Needing Vaccine Should:

- Consult IVATS.
- Log in to the Health Commerce System for redistribution.

Individuals Needing Vaccine Should:

- See your medical provider.
- Consult flu.gov.
- Visit your pharmacist.

For information on how to prevent influenza, please visit www.flu.gov or www.jcphs.org.

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