

## **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Guidance**

To: Vermont Healthcare Providers  
From: Wendy Davis, MD, Commissioner of Health

### **Administer seasonal influenza vaccine as soon as it's available.**

- Anyone who is currently recommended for seasonal influenza vaccination – including people age 65 and older – should receive the seasonal vaccine as soon as it is available. There is no reason to delay.
- A literature review published in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* in 2008 found no evidence that seroprotection is lost within four months of vaccination in the elderly, if it was initially achieved after immunization. <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/524146> (Skowronski DM, Tweed SA, DeSerres G. *Rapid decline of influenza vaccine-induced antibody in the elderly: is it real, or is it relevant?* J Infect Dis 2008; **197**:490-502).
- Seasonal influenza vaccination efforts should continue throughout the season, because the duration of the season varies year to year.
- In the past, organized seasonal influenza vaccination clinics have typically not been scheduled until October, to better ensure adequate vaccine supplies would be available. However, if you have vaccine, there is no reason to delay administering it.
- Seasonal influenza vaccine manufacturers anticipate no delays or complications with production or distribution this year.

### **Pediatric seasonal influenza vaccine supplied by the VDH Immunization Program**

- Seasonal influenza vaccine distributed by the Vermont Department of Health is available only for pediatric use (children age 6 months through 18 years). Anyone age 19 and older should seek flu vaccine from their health care provider or at public flu clinics. See the Flu Clinic Finder at [healthvermont.gov/](http://healthvermont.gov/).
- The Health Department anticipates that pediatric seasonal influenza vaccine will begin to arrive in provider offices as early as late September.
- For full ACIP recommendations go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5808a1.htm>

### **Protect your patients, protect yourself.**

- A yearly influenza vaccination is recommended for health care workers.