



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

October 17, 2019

DAL: DAL #19-26  
Administration of Influenza and  
Pneumococcal Immunization by Adult Care  
Facility Nurses

Dear Adult Home Administrator/Enriched Housing Program Coordinator:

The Division of Adult Care Facilities and Assisted Living Surveillance (the “Division”) issued Dear Administrator Letter (DAL) #19-08 outlining changes to the Adult Care Facility (ACF) Equivalency List based on the Division’s annual review, including removal of the equivalency or waiver to allow ACF-employed nurses to provide influenza and pneumococcal immunization to residents and employees. Options for ACFs to meet the mandatory requirement of providing or arranging for immunization against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease as indicated by current guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Assisted Living Program (ALP) nurses employed by the affiliated Licensed Home Care Services Agency (LHCSA) may obtain non-specific patient orders in accordance with written criteria and protocols established by the LHCSA medical director to administer influenza and pneumococcal vaccines to all ACF residents upon receipt of written consent from the resident.
- Registered Nurses employed by Enhanced Assisted Living Residences (EALR) can administer flu and pneumococcal vaccines per established written and communicated policies, procedures and protocols from the medical practitioner (i.e., Nurse Practitioner or Physician) responsible for the primary care of the resident(s).
- ACFs may contract with a LHCSA or Certified Home Health Agency to administer the influenza and pneumococcal immunization.
- ACFs may arrange for immunizations with residents’ primary care physicians.
- ACF residents may access influenza and other vaccination clinics available to the general public. ACFs should contact their local health department to determine local program availability.
- Pharmacists certified to provide immunizations are not limited to only providing those services within a pharmacy and certified pharmacists routinely provide immunization services in nursing homes, flu clinics, pods and other locations including ACFs. Information can be found online at:  
<http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pharm/pharmimmunizations.htm> and  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/pharmacists\\_as\\_immunizers.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/providers/pharmacists_as_immunizers.htm)

Please be advised that standing orders are written protocols approved by a physician or other authorized medical practitioner that allow qualified health care professionals eligible under State law to assess the need for and administer vaccinations to patients meeting certain criteria, such as age or underlying medical condition. These qualified health care professionals must also be eligible by State law to administer certain medications, such as epinephrine, under standing orders should a medical emergency occur.

Per previous guidance issued April 20, 2000, ACFs are subject to requirements to arrange for and document residents' and staff members' vaccination against influenza and pneumonia. As such, ACFs must comply with the following requirements:

- Provide or arrange for immunization against the influenza virus annually and pneumococcal disease as indicated by current guidelines.
- Immunizations must be documented for each resident and employee and include the date of administration, type of vaccine, dose, manufacturer, lot number, and any reactions to the vaccine. Documentation must also be maintained for those residents or employees that decline the vaccine(s).
- Immunization against influenza and documentation thereof must occur no later than November 30 of each year. This should also be addressed with new admissions and employees throughout the flu season.
- ACFs must notify their regional DOH office of outbreaks. Provider guidance for immunization administration is located at: [https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/toolkits/influenza\\_toolkit/](https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/toolkits/influenza_toolkit/).
- Facilities having difficulty locating a source for flu and pneumonia vaccinations may contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization at (518) 473-4437 or by email at [immunize@health.ny.gov](mailto:immunize@health.ny.gov), or their regional home care office as applicable.

If you have any questions regarding this clarification, please contact the Division at (518) 408-1133 or via email to [acfinfo@health.ny.gov](mailto:acfinfo@health.ny.gov).

Sincerely,

Heidi L. Hayes, Acting Director  
Division of Adult Care Facilities  
and Assisted Living Surveillance

cc: M. Hennessey  
V. Deetz  
B. Barrington  
P. Hasan  
N. Nickason  
J. Pinto  
J. VanDyke  
K. Kodra