

September 8, 2014

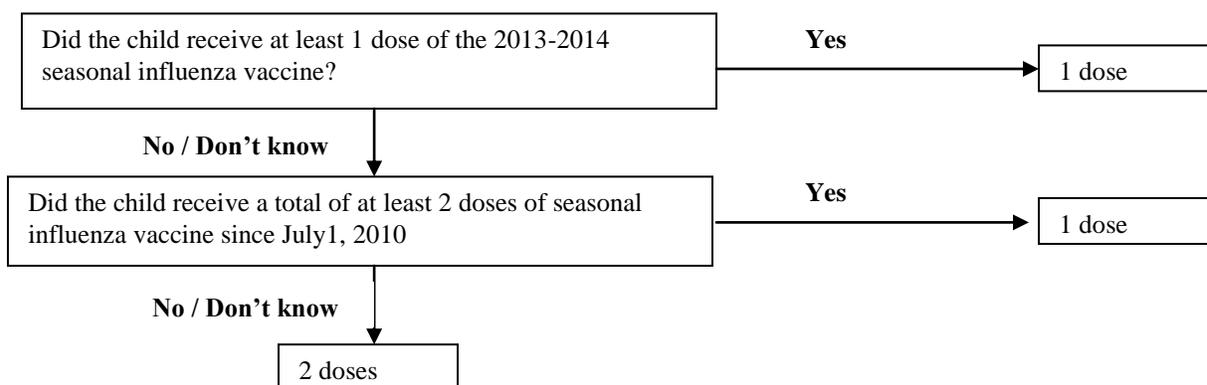
INFLUENZA VACCINE 2014-2015

Dear Doctor,

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), published its guidelines for the use of influenza vaccine for the 2014-2015. A link to this report and other information can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

For 2014-2015, ACIP recommends the following:

- **Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged ≥ 6 months that do not have contraindications.** Vaccination should be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating. **Vaccination is especially important for people at higher risk of severe influenza** and their close contacts, including pregnant women, healthcare personnel and close contacts of children younger than 6 months.
- **To avoid missed opportunities for vaccination, providers should offer vaccination during routine health care visits**
- **Children aged 6 months through 8 years** require 2 doses of influenza vaccine (administered a minimum of 4 weeks apart) during their first season of vaccination to optimize immune response. In determining the appropriate number of doses, previous receipt of vaccine containing 2009 influenza A(H1N1) pandemic antigen (included in monovalent pandemic vaccine during 2009–10 and in seasonal influenza vaccines since the 2010–11 season) should be considered. In addition, because the strains contained in the 2014–15 seasonal influenza vaccines are identical to those contained in the 2013–14 vaccines, only 1 dose is required for any child aged 6 months through 8 years who previously received ≥ 1 dose of 2013–14 seasonal influenza vaccine. ACIP summarizes the recommendation in the following algorithm



Considerations for the Use of Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine

For 2014–15, ACIP recommends the following: when immediately available, LAIV should be used **for healthy children aged 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications or precautions**. If LAIV is not immediately available, Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) should be used. Vaccination should not be delayed to procure LAIV. This recommendation should be implemented for the 2014–15 season as feasible, but not later than the 2015–16 season.

LAIV should not be used in the following populations:

- Persons aged <2 years or >49 years;
- Those with contraindications listed in the package insert:
 - Children aged 2 through 17 years who are receiving aspirin or aspirin-containing products;
 - Persons who have experienced severe allergic reactions to the vaccine or any of its components, or to a previous dose of any influenza vaccine;
- Pregnant women;
- Immunosuppressed persons;
- Persons with a history of egg allergy;
- Children aged 2 through 4 years who have asthma or who have had a wheezing episode noted in the medical record within the past 12 months, or for whom parents report that a health care provider stated that they had wheezing or asthma within the last 12 months
- Persons who have taken influenza antiviral medications within the previous 48 hours.

Persons Who Should Not Receive the Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

- People with a severe allergy (i.e., anaphylactic allergic reaction) to eggs
- People with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome that occurred after receiving influenza vaccine and who are not at risk for severe illness from influenza should generally not receive the vaccine.
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination in the past
- Children less than 6 months of age
- People who have a moderate or severe illness with a fever should wait to get vaccinated until their symptoms subside.
- People under 65 years of age should not receive the high-dose flu shot.

Available Vaccine Products and Indications

For 2014–15, U.S.-licensed influenza vaccines will contain the same vaccine virus strains as those in the 2013–14 vaccine. Trivalent influenza vaccines will contain hemagglutinin (HA) derived from an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus, an A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like (Yamagata lineage) virus.

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines will contain these antigens, and also a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (Victoria lineage) virus.

The following table lists the influenza vaccines in for the 2014-2015 influenza season:

<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Mercury Content</u> (mcg Hg/0.5ml dose)	<u>Age Indication</u>	<u>Route</u>
Inactivated influenza vaccine, trivalent (IIV3), standard dose					
Afluria+	bioCSL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe • 5.0 mL multidose vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0 ▪ 24.5 	≥9 years	IM
Fluarix	GSK	0.5ml singl-dose prefilled syringe		>9 years	IM
FluLaval	ID Biomedical Corp.Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe • 5.0 mL multidose vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 • <25 	≥3 years	IM
Fluvirin	Novartis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe • 5.0 mL multidose vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤1 • 25 	≥3 years	IM
Fluzone	Sanofi Pasteur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe • 5.0 mL multidose vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 • 25 	≥36 months	IM
Fluzone Intradermal	Sanofi Pasteur	0.1 mL prefilled microinjection system		18-64 years	ID
Flucelvax (cell culture based)	Novartis	0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe		18-64 years	IM
FluBlok (recombinant)	Protein Sciences	0.5 mL single-dose vial		18-49	IM
Inactivated influenza vaccine, trivalent (IIV3), high dose					
Fluzone High-Dose*	Sanofi Pasteur	0.5 mL single –dose prefilled syringes		≥65 years	IM
Inactivated influenza vaccine, quadrivalent (IIV4), standard dose					
Fluarix Quadrivalent	GSK	0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe		≥3 years	IM
FluLaval Quadrivalent	ID Biomedical Corp.Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe • 5.0 mL multidose vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 • <25 	≥3 years	IM
Fluzone Quadrivalent	Sanofi Pasteur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.25 mL single-dose prefilled syr • 0.5 mL single-dose prefilled syringe • 0.5 mL single-dose vial • 5.0 mL multidose vial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 • 0 • 0 • 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-35 mos ≥36 mos ≥36 mos ≥36 mos 	IM
Live attenuated influenza vaccine, quadrivalent (LAIV4)					
FluMist Quadrivalent**	MedImmune	0.2ml single-dose prefilled intranasal spray		2-49 years	IN

+ Age indication per package insert is ≥ 5 years; however, ACIP recommends Afluria not be used in children aged 6 months through 8 years because of increased reports of febrile reactions in this age group

* TIV high-dose: contains 60 µg of each vaccine antigen (180 µg total) . It is an alternative IIV3 for persons aged ≥65 years. **Neither CDC nor ACIP is expressing a preference of one vaccine over another at this time.**

**** NOT COVERED ON CAREIST MEDI-CAL FORMULARY**

Since vaccination is important in high risk group, physicians are encouraged to order supplies early and reach out to their patients to ensure that they are vaccinated against influenza. Care1st is educating its members about influenza risk and encouraging them to contact their PCP to get their flu vaccine at the office.

MEDICARE MEMBERS HAVE THE OPTION OF GETTING THEIR VACCINE AT A PARTICIPATING VACCINATING PHARMACY.

Sincerely,

Care1st Health Plan
Pharmacy Clinical Services