

Community Health Network of Connecticut, Inc.

Immunization Recommendations For 2011-2012 Seasonal Influenza

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released recommendations regarding use of influenza vaccine for prevention and control of seasonal influenza during the 2011-2012 influenza season. Based on recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a group that advises CDC on vaccinations, the CDC has published its recommendations in the August 18, 2011 issue of Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>). See *Prevention and control of influenza with vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2011. MMWR 2011;60e:1-6.*

2011 Recommendation Highlights

- Routine influenza vaccination is **recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older.**
- For all appropriate recipients, the optimal time to vaccinate is soon after vaccine becomes available and if possible by October, although both length of the influenza season and the past pattern of peak flu activity mean that vaccination later in the flu season (December and later) can still provide protection against influenza. Vaccination efforts should continue as long as seasonal influenza is circulating in the community. Because children aged 6 months through 8 years who have not been previously vaccinated need 2 doses of vaccine, they should optimally receive their first dose in September so that both doses can be administered before the onset of influenza activity.
- All children aged 6 months-8 years who receive a seasonal influenza vaccine *for the first time* require 2 doses, administered a minimum of 4 weeks apart, during their first season of vaccination. Whereas previously those children who had received only 1 dose of a seasonal influenza vaccine in their first year of vaccination required 2 doses the following season, children in this age group who received at least 1 dose of the 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine will require only 1 dose of the 2011-2012 vaccine. Children in this age group who did not receive at least 1 dose of the 2010-2011 seasonal influenza vaccine, or for whom it is not certain that the 2010-2011 seasonal vaccine was received, should receive 2 doses of the 2011-2012 seasonal vaccine.

- The 2011-2012 trivalent U.S. seasonal influenza vaccine will contain the same virus strains as contained in the 2010-2011 vaccine: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like, A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like. Note: The influenza A (H1N1 vaccine virus strain is derived from a 2009 pandemic influenza A (NH1N1 virus.
- CDC recommends that influenza vaccine should not be administered to persons known to have hypersensitivity to eggs or to other components of the influenza vaccine, or have previously had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination, *without first consulting a physician*. A set of specific recommendations applies when considering influenza vaccination of persons who have or who report a history of egg allergy. These have been published and are available from manufacturers of vaccines as well as from the CDC.

Additional detailed information pertaining to the above is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> and <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>.

ACIP Recommendations Regarding Inactivated Influenza Vaccine: Persons Who Should Not Be Vaccinated with TIV

TIV is licensed for use among persons aged 6 months of age and older, including those who are healthy and those with chronic medical conditions. Approval for use varies by formulation and age of recipients. CDC has recommended that inactivated influenza vaccine should not be administered to persons known to have hypersensitivity to eggs or to other components of the influenza vaccine, or have previously had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination, *without first consulting a physician*. Persons with moderate to severe acute febrile illness usually should not be vaccinated until their symptoms have abated. Chemoprophylactic use of antiviral agents is mentioned as an option for preventing influenza among such persons. Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>.

ACIP Recommendations for Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV): Persons Who Should Not Be Vaccinated with LAIV

LAIV is licensed for use among nonpregnant persons aged 2 years through 49 years. LAIV is not recommended for certain persons at higher risk for complications from influenza infection because of underlying medical conditions. Individuals who should NOT receive LAIV (and thus should only receive inactivated vaccine) include:

- Those younger than 2 years of age, or age 50 years and older;
- Pregnant women or those contemplating a pregnancy during the influenza season;
- Those with chronic underlying medical conditions, including chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), such metabolic diseases as diabetes, renal dysfunction, and hemoglobinopathies;
- Those with known or suspected immunodeficiency diseases or who are receiving immunosuppressive therapies;
- Children ages 2-4 years whose parents or caregivers report that a healthcare provider has told them during the preceding 12 months that their child had wheezing or asthma, or whose medical record or history indicates a wheezing episode has occurred during the preceding 12 months;
- Children or adolescents through age 18 years receiving aspirin or other salicylates;
- Those with history of Guillain-Barré syndrome;
- Family members or close contacts of persons of immunocompromised persons requiring a protected environment, e.g., hemopoetic stem cell transplant recipient);

- Any person who has a history of hypersensitivity to eggs or to components of LAIV *without first consulting a physician.*

Additional information and updates to CDC recommendations are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> and <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>.

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