

CDC Influenza Division Key Points

August 6, 2015

2015-2016 Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) 2015-16 Recommendations for prevention and control of seasonal influenza were published in complete form in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on August 6, 2015. The report is available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6430a3.htm?s_cid=mm6430a3_e
- CDC and ACIP regularly review the latest scientific evidence regarding the performance of flu vaccines and take all such evidence into consideration when determining vaccine recommendations.
- CDC and ACIP continue to recommend that all persons 6 months and older be vaccinated annually against influenza.
- Quadrivalent vaccines are available again this season, along with traditional trivalent vaccines.
- Quadrivalent vaccines are made to protect against four flu viruses. Trivalent vaccines are made to protect against three. By adding another B virus to the vaccine, quadrivalent vaccines may give broader protection.
- Quadrivalent vaccines are available in the following forms:
 - A standard dose quadrivalent shot. There are several different brands of quadrivalent influenza shots, and they are recommended for different age groups. However, there is a brand that is approved for children as young as 6 months old and up.
 - A [standard dose quadrivalent flu vaccine, given as a nasal spray](#), approved for healthy people 2 through 49 years of age
 - A standard dose [intradermal quadrivalent shot](#), which is injected into the skin instead of the muscle and uses a much smaller needle than the regular flu shot, approved for people 18 through 64 years of age.
- Trivalent vaccines are available in the following forms:
 - [Standard dose trivalent shots](#) that are manufactured using virus grown in eggs. These are approved for people ages 6 months and older. There are different brands of this type of vaccine, and each is approved for different ages. However, there is a brand that is approved for children as young as 6 months old and up.
 - [Trivalent egg-free vaccine](#) (called FluBlok®) approved for people 18 years and older, which can be given to people in this age group who have egg allergy of any severity.

- A standard dose [trivalent shot containing virus grown in cell culture](#), which is approved for people 18 and older.
- A [high-dose trivalent shot](#), approved for people 65 and older.
- A [jet injector](#) can be used for delivery of one particular trivalent flu vaccine (AFLURIA® by bioCSL Inc.).
- All 2015-16 influenza trivalent (three-component) vaccines are made to protect against the following three viruses:
 - an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus
 - an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus
 - a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus. (This is a B/Yamagata lineage virus)
- This influenza A (H3N2) virus and the influenza B viruses components of the 2015-16 season trivalent vaccines have been updated from the 2014-2015 flu vaccine.
- Quadrivalent (four-component) influenza vaccines also will include a B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (Victoria lineage) virus component, which is the same Victoria lineage virus recommended for quadrivalent formulations during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 flu seasons.
- There are some newly licensed vaccines for this season:
 - On August 14, 2014, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of one [jet injector device](#) (the PharmaJet Stratis 0.5ml Needle-free Jet Injector) for delivery of one particular flu vaccine (AFLURIA® by bioCSL Inc.) in people 18 through 64 years of age.
 - On October 29, 2014, FDA approved an expanded age indication for the use of [Flublok®](#), which was previously approved for persons aged 18 through 49 years. Flublok® is now indicated for persons aged 18 years and older.
 - On December 11, 2014, FDA approved [Fluzone® Intradermal Quadrivalent](#) for persons aged 18 through 64 years. It is anticipated that this formulation will replace the previously available trivalent Fluzone® Intradermal for the 2015-16 influenza season.
- There is no preferential recommendation at this time for any of the flu vaccines available this season. The important thing is to get a flu vaccine.
- A new algorithm for determining the appropriate number of doses for children aged 6 months through 8 years has been developed.
 - Children 6 months through 8 years who have previously received 2 or more total doses of trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccine as of July 1, 2015 only one need

one dose for 2015-16. The two previous doses do not need to have been given during the same season or consecutive seasons.

- [Children](#) 6 months through 8 years who have previously received only 1 dose or no doses of influenza vaccine need two doses of vaccine to be fully protected for the 2015-2015 season.
- For 2015-16, CDC and ACIP recommend annual influenza vaccination for children 2 through 8 years of age with either nasal spray flu vaccine (i.e., LAIV) or flu shot (i.e., IIV), with no preference expressed for either vaccine when either one is otherwise appropriate and available. (The 2014-2015 preference for using the nasal spray flu vaccine (i.e., LAIV) instead of the flu shot (i.e., IIV) for healthy children 2 through 8 years of age when immediately available was not renewed. More information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/s0226-acip.html>)

2015-2016 Influenza Vaccine Recommendations: A Summary of What's Different This Season

1. There is no preferential recommendation for any one flu vaccine over another.
2. There are a few newly licensed products on the market.
3. There is a new algorithm for 1 dose versus 2 doses for children 6 months through 8 years of age.
4. Two of the vaccine virus components from last season were updated this season.