

Influenza Vaccination Program

Who Should Get Vaccinated? Everyone 6 months and older. Health-care personnel should receive the vaccine annually as you care for people at high risk for developing flu-related complications.

Who Should NOT be Vaccinated? People who have: a severe allergy to chicken eggs; or a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination; or a moderate to severe illness with a fever; or a history of Guillain-Barré Syndrome.

When Should Vaccination Occur? As soon as flu vaccine is available, even if as early as August.

What are the Influenza Vaccine Options? There are two (2) types of vaccine, each of which take about 2 weeks to become effective and last a year:

1. Trivalent inactivated vaccine (TIV) - a vaccine containing killed virus that is given intramuscularly (IM), usually in the arm. There are three different kinds of TIV: regular TIV (for everyone), a high dose TIV (for people 65 and older) and an intradermal TIV vaccine (for people 18 - 64 years of age).
2. Live, Attenuated Intranasal Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) - a nasal spray for people 18 - 64 years of age.

Package inserts should be consulted for recommended age groups and possible contraindications for each vaccine in addition to information regarding additional components of various vaccine formulations.

What are Possible Side Effects?

1. The viruses in the injectable influenza vaccine (TIV) are inactivated so they do not cause influenza. Minor side effects can include soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, fever (low grade), or aches. If these occur, they begin soon after vaccination and usually last 1 or 2 days. Other rare side effects have been reported. More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-flu.pdf>.
2. LAIV is made from weakened viruses and does not cause influenza. The vaccine can cause mild illness in some people. Minor side effects can include runny nose, headache, sore throat, or cough. More information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-flulive.pdf>.

How is Influenza Spread? Influenza viruses are spread from person to person primarily through large-particle respiratory droplet transmission (e.g., when an infected person coughs or sneezes). Transmission via large-particle droplets requires close contact between source and recipient persons, because droplets do not remain suspended in the air and generally travel only a short distance (less than or equal to 1 meter) through the air. Contact with respiratory-droplet contaminated surfaces is another possible source of transmission. The typical incubation period is 1 - 4 days (average 2 days). Uncomplicated influenza illness typically resolves after 3 - 7 days for the majority of persons, although cough and malaise can persist for more than 2 weeks. Influenza virus infections can cause primary influenza viral pneumonia; exacerbate underlying medical conditions, e.g., pulmonary or cardiac disease; lead to secondary bacterial pneumonia, sinusitis, or otitis media or contribute to coinfections with other pathogens.

What are Signs/Symptoms of Influenza? For most people, symptoms last only a few days. They include: fever/chills; sore throat; muscle aches; fatigue; cough; headache; runny or stuffy nose.

I understand that the Agency strongly recommends that I take the influenza vaccine annually.

The box checked below reflects my influenza vaccine status for the current year:

- I have already received the current year influenza vaccine.

- I refuse the current year influenza vaccine for the following reason(s):
 - Medically contraindicated due to:
 - Severe allergy to chicken eggs
 - Severe reaction to an influenza vaccination
 - Moderate to severe illness with a fever
 - History of Guillain-Barré Syndrome
 - Other medical contraindication: _____
 - Other reason:
 - Religious preference
 - Fear of needles
 - Opposed to vaccinations
 - Unpleasant prior experience
 - Personal choice _____
 - Other _____

- I have not received the current year influenza vaccine. I understand that I have the option of obtaining the vaccine at local pharmacies, grocery stores, drug stores, clinics, physician office, or health department.

- I accept the influenza vaccine as provided by the agency.

I understand that the seasonal influenza vaccine is the most important way of preventing seasonal influenza virus infections and potentially severe complications, including death.

I understand that non-vaccine control and prevention measures include using appropriate respiratory hygiene measures, hand hygiene measures and standard precautions.

Employee Signature

Date