

September 2013

TO: Healthcare Providers, Clinical Laboratories, Hospitals, Long-Term Care Facilities, Pharmacies,
and Local Health Departments

FROM: NYSDOH Bureau of Immunization

HEALTH ADVISORY:

INFLUENZA PREVENTION AND CONTROL: 2013–2014

For healthcare facilities, please distribute immediately to the Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Director of Pharmacy, Laboratory Service, and all patient care areas.

PURPOSE

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is providing this advisory to assist health care providers in preparing for the 2013–2014 influenza season. This advisory highlights the current recommendations regarding the prevention and control of influenza.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFLUENZA WITH VACCINES

On September 20, 2013, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published the yearly recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on the prevention and control of influenza with vaccines. (MMWR; September 20, 2013; 62(RR07); 1-43). The document is accessible at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6207a1.htm?s_cid=rr6207a1_e. This document contains more details on all recommendations or information provided below.

NYSDOH would like to highlight the following ACIP recommendations:

- Annual influenza vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months continues to be recommended.
- Vaccination providers should offer influenza vaccination *as soon as vaccine is available* and throughout the influenza season. It takes about two weeks after vaccination for protective antibodies to develop, therefore, vaccination before the influenza season begins offers the best protection against disease.

Vaccine Formulation and Composition

- U.S. trivalent influenza vaccines will contain:
 - A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus
 - H3N2 virus antigenically like the cell-propagated prototype virus A/Victoria/361/2011, and
 - B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus

- Quadrivalent vaccines will also include an additional vaccine virus: B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.
- The 2013-14 season includes a number of new vaccine formulations and compositions. This document includes revised abbreviations to refer to currently available influenza vaccines:
 - The former abbreviation TIV (Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine, previously used for inactivated influenza vaccines) has been replaced with the new abbreviation IIV (Inactivated Influenza Vaccine). For 2013-14, IIVs as a class will include:
 - egg-based and cell culture-based trivalent inactivated influenza vaccines (IIV3), and
 - egg-based quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4).
 - RIV refers to recombinant hemagglutinin influenza vaccine, available as a trivalent formulation (RIV3) for 2013-14;
 - LAIV refers to live-attenuated influenza vaccine, available only as a quadrivalent formulation (LAIV4) for 2013-14.
 - LAIV, IIV, and RIV denote vaccine categories; numeric suffix specifies the number of antigens in the vaccine.
 - Where necessary to refer specifically to cell culture-based vaccine, the prefix “cc” is used (e.g., “ccIIV3”).
- Multiple influenza vaccines are available during the 2013-2014 season. Please refer to the chart in the above-referenced document for detailed vaccine information. Of note, several new, recently-licensed vaccines will be available:
 - A quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4; Flumist® Quadrivalent [MedImmune])
 - A quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4; Fluarix® Quadrivalent [GlaxoSmithKline])
 - A quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4; Fluzone® Quadrivalent [Sanofi Pasteur])
 - A quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4; FluLaval® Quadrivalent [GSK]).
 - A trivalent cell culture-based inactivated influenza vaccine (ccIIV3; Flucelvax® [Novartis])
 - A recombinant hemagglutinin (HA) vaccine (RIV3; FluBlok® [Protein Sciences])

The Pediatric Population and Influenza Vaccine Dosing

An updated vaccination schedule/algorithm for children aged 6 months through 8 years can be found in the above-referenced document.

- Children aged 6 months through 8 years:
 - Children in this age group require 2 doses of influenza vaccine (administered a minimum of 4 weeks apart) during their first season of vaccination to optimize immune response.
 - Children in this age group need only 1 dose of vaccine in 2013-14 if they have received any of the following:
 - 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010 or
 - 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010 and 1 or more doses of monovalent 2009(H1N1) vaccine or
 - 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010 and 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010.

Influenza Vaccine Administration in the Egg-allergic Population

- Detailed recommendations for patients with a history of egg allergy can be found in the above-referenced document. Significant updates include:
 - Egg-allergic people who experience mild reactions to egg, specifically those who have experienced only hives, can and should receive the influenza vaccine, either IIV or RIV.
 - Persons who report having had reactions to egg involving such symptoms as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis; or who required epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention may receive RIV3, if aged 18 through 49 years and there are no other contraindications. If RIV3 is not available or the recipient is not within the indicated age range, such persons should be referred to a physician with

expertise in the management of allergic conditions for further risk assessment before receipt of vaccine.

- For individuals who have no known history of exposure to egg, but who are suspected of being egg-allergic on the basis of previously performed allergy testing, consultation with a physician with expertise in the management of allergic conditions should be obtained prior to vaccination. Alternatively, RIV3 may be administered if the recipient is aged 18 through 49 years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other resources on influenza are available on the NYSDOH public website at <http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/> and on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>. For additional information please contact the Bureau of Immunization at 518-473-4437.