CalOptima Health

Pharmacy Update
October 2023

Annual Flu Vaccine Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 173 million influenza vaccine doses were distributed during the 2022–23 flu season.[1] Evidence shows flu vaccination significantly reduces the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions.[2]

Vaccine Recommendations for the 2023–24 Influenza Season[3]

- Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older without contraindications.
- Vaccination should ideally be offered during September or October for most people who need only one dose of influenza vaccine for the season. However, vaccination should continue throughout the season as long as influenza viruses are circulating and unexpired vaccine is available.
- All providers who administer any vaccines must have the personnel, medications and resuscitative equipment needed for rapid recognition and treatment of potential anaphylaxis.

Considerations for Special Populations[3]

- Children 6 months to 8 years old who have not previously received at least two doses of flu vaccine, or whose flu vaccination history is unknown, will require two doses of 2023–24 influenza vaccine administered at least four weeks apart.
- Adults 65 years or older should receive either the quadrivalent high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine, quadrivalent recombinant influenza vaccine or quadrivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine.
- People with an egg allergy may receive any flu vaccine (egg-based or non-egg based) that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health status with no additional safety measures recommended beyond those for receipt of any vaccine, regardless of the severity of previous reaction to eggs.
- Providers should refer to current CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices guidance regarding the administration of influenza vaccines with new vaccines, such as those for COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Influenza Vaccine Products for the 2023–2024 Influenza Season[3]:

Vaccine	Trade Name	HA* per dose	Age	Route†
Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (ccIIV4)‡	Flucelvax Quadrivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 6 mos	IM
Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccines (IIV4)	Afluria Quadrivalent§	7.5 mcg/0.25 mL¶	6–35 mos	IM
		15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 3 yrs	
	Fluarix Quadrivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 6 mos	IM
	FluLaval Quadrivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 6 mos	IM
	Fluzone Quadrivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL#	≥ 6 mos	IM
Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine High-Dose (HD-IIV4)	Fluzone High-Dose	60 mcg/0.7 mL	≥ 65 yrs	IM
Quadrivalent Adjuvanted Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (aIIV4)	Fluad Quadrivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 65 yrs	IM
Quadrivalent Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (RIV4)	Flublok Quadrivalent	45 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 18 yrs	IM
Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV4)	FluMist Quadrivalent	$10^{6.5\text{-}7.5}$ units/0.2 mL^ (0.1 mL/nostril)	2–49 yrs	IN

*HA: hemagglutinin; †IM: intramuscular, IN: intranasal; ‡ccIIV: cell culture-based influenza vaccine; §Afluria Quadrivalent multidose vial may be given by the PharmaJet Stratis jet injector for persons aged 18–64 years only; ¶Afluria Quadrivalent 0.25 mL prefilled syringes are no longer available; a 0.25-mL dose must be obtained from a multidose vial; #Fluzone Quadrivalent is approved for ages 6–35 months at either 0.25 mL or 0.5 mL per dose; however, 0.25 mL prefilled syringes are no longer available; ^LAIV4 dose is in fluorescent focus units (virus count) per mL

References:

1. Influenza Vaccine Doses Distributed, United States. Reviewed on March 31, 2023, Available at https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvaxview/dashboard/vaccination-doses-distributed.html. Accessed September 5, 2023.
2. Vaccine Effectiveness: How Well Do Flu Vaccines Work? Reviewed on February 8, 2023. Available at https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/vaccineeffect.htm. Accessed September 5, 2023.
3. Grohskopf LA, Blanton LH, Ferdinands JM, et al. Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – United States, 2023–24 Influenza Season. MMWR Recomm Rep 2023;72(No. RR-2):1–25. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7202a1.