

Who Should Receive Influenza Vaccination

- Anyone wishing to reduce his or her risk for influenza should ask a health care professional about receiving an annual vaccination.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends annual influenza vaccination for the following groups:
 - All persons who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting influenza to others
 - All children from 6 months through 18 years of age
 - Anyone 6 months of age and older with certain chronic medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, asthma, heart disease, compromised immune system)
 - Pregnant women
 - People who live with, care for or come into close contact with persons at risk, including children younger than 6 months of age and individuals with chronic medical conditions or compromised immunity
 - People 50 years of age and older
 - Health care professionals
 - Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities

Who Should Avoid Influenza Vaccination

- Individuals who have had a severe reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to eggs or egg proteins or a previous influenza vaccine-associated allergic reaction should avoid immunization.
- People who have developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine previously should avoid immunization.
- People with acute febrile illnesses (high fever) should usually wait until their symptoms subside. However, vaccination can proceed during minor illnesses, with or without fever.
- Certain groups should not receive the nasal vaccine, including:
 - Persons younger than 2 years of age
 - Those 50 years and older
 - Children or adolescents taking aspirin
 - Pregnant women

- Individuals with certain underlying medical conditions, such as asthma or diabetes

Safety of the Influenza Vaccine

- The injectable vaccine is made from an inactivated, or killed, virus and cannot transmit infection. This vaccine is licensed for use in all persons 6 months of age and older, regardless of health status. The nasal-spray vaccine is made from live, attenuated (weakened) virus.
- The most frequent side effect of the injectable influenza vaccine is soreness at the injection site for one to two days. Occasionally, some people experience a period of mild fever and fatigue for a day or two following immunization.
- The most common side effect of the nasal vaccine is runny nose. Other side effects include cold-like symptoms, such as headache, cough, sore throat, tiredness or weakness, irritability and muscle aches.

About the *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC)*

The *Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC)* was established by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) to protect infants, children and adolescents from influenza by communicating with “one strong voice” the need to make influenza immunization a national health priority. *CIIC* seeks to address and improve the alarmingly low influenza immunization rates among children. Each year influenza causes approximately 20,000 hospitalizations and nearly 100 deaths in American children younger than 5 years of age.

Coalition members include Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American College of Cardiology, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Lung Association, American Medical Association, American Pharmacists Association, American Public Health Association, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, Canyon Ranch Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Every Child By Two, Families Fighting Flu, Inc., Immune Deficiency Foundation, Immunization Action Coalition, Kaiser Permanente-Northern California, National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Association of Community Health Centers, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Association of School Nurses, National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Medical Association, Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases and Society for Adolescent Medicine.

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For more information on *CIIC* or influenza, please visit
www.PreventChildhoodInfluenza.org.