

2009-2010

Who should get vaccinated?

Children & Adolescents

- All children aged 6 months--18 years should be vaccinated annually.
- Children and adolescents at higher risk for influenza complications should continue to be a focus of vaccination efforts as providers and programs transition to routinely vaccinating all children and adolescents, including those who:
 - are aged 6 months--4 years (59 months);
 - have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
 - are immunosuppressed (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
 - are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection;
 - are residents of long-term care facilities; and
 - will be pregnant during the influenza season.

Note: Children aged < 6 months cannot receive influenza vaccination. Household and other close contacts (e.g., daycare providers) of children aged < 6 months, including older children and adolescents, should be vaccinated.

Adults

- Annual vaccination against influenza is recommended for any adult who wants to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting it to others.
- Vaccination is recommended for all adults without contraindications in the following groups, because these persons either are at higher risk for influenza complications, or are close contacts of persons at higher risk:
 - persons aged 50 years and older;
 - women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
 - persons who have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, cognitive, neurologic/neuromuscular, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
 - persons who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
 - residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities;
 - health-care personnel;
 - household contacts and caregivers of children aged <5 years and adults aged 50 years and older, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children aged <6 months; and
 - household contacts and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza.

Who should not be vaccinated?

- People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs,
- People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination
- People who have developed Guillain-Barre syndrome within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine
- People who have a moderate to severe illness with a fever (they should wait until they recover to get vaccinated)
- Children less than 6 months of age (influenza vaccine is not approved for this age group)