

### Annual Flu Vaccine Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates there were between 39 million and 56 million influenza illnesses and between 24,000 and 62,000 related deaths during the 2019-20 flu season.<sup>1</sup> Flu vaccination has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions.<sup>2</sup>

#### Vaccine Recommendations for the 2020-21 Influenza Season<sup>3</sup>

- Routine annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons  $\geq 6$  months without contraindications.
- Vaccination should be offered by the end of October to maximize likelihood of persistence of immunity and to allow time for immunity to develop before the onset of influenza activity in the community. Vaccination should continue to be offered if influenza viruses are circulating and unexpired vaccines are available.
- Consider delaying vaccination in those with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 until the patient is no longer acutely ill.
- All providers who administer any vaccines must have the personnel, medications, and resuscitative equipment available to treat potential anaphylaxis.

#### Special Populations<sup>3</sup>

- New vaccines indicated for persons  $\geq 65$  years: quadrivalent high-dose and quadrivalent adjuvanted vaccines.
- Persons 6 months - 8 years require two doses of 2020-21 influenza vaccine separated  $\geq 4$  weeks apart if they did not receive  $\geq 2$  doses of flu vaccine before July 1, 2020 or flu vaccination history is unknown.
- Live attenuated influenza vaccine is an option for non-immunocompromised, nonpregnant persons age 2-49 years without contraindications.
- Persons with a history of allergic reactions after egg ingestion should receive any licensed, recommended, age-appropriate flu vaccine if not contraindicated. If a vaccine other than a RIV4 or cclIV4 is used in a person with a history of a severe allergic reaction, administer in an in- or outpatient medical setting supervised by a health care provider.

#### Influenza Vaccine Products for the 2020-2021 Influenza Season<sup>4</sup>:

Vaccine	Trade Name	HA per dose	Age	Route*
<b>Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (ccIV4)</b>	Flucelvax Quadrivalent <sup>†</sup>	15 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 4$ yrs	IM
<b>Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccines (IIV4s)</b>	Afluria Quadrivalent	7.5 mcg / 0.25 mL	6 - 35 mos	IM
		15 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 3$ yrs	
	Fluarix Quadrivalent	15 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 6$ mos	IM
	FluLaval Quadrivalent	15 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 6$ mos	IM
	Fluzone Quadrivalent <sup>‡</sup>	15 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 6$ mos	IM
<b>Quadrivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine High-Dose (HD-IIV4)</b>	Fluzone High-Dose	60 mcg / 0.7 mL	$\geq 65$ yrs	IM
<b>Quadrivalent Adjuvanted Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (aIIV4)</b>	Fluad Quadrivalent	15 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 65$ yrs	IM
<b>Quadrivalent Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (RIV4)</b>	Flublok Quadrivalent	45 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 18$ yrs	IM
<b>Quadrivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV4)</b>	FluMist Quadrivalent <sup>#</sup>	10 units / 0.2 mL (0.1mL/nostril)	2 - 49 yrs	IN
<b>Trivalent Adjuvanted Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (aIIV3)</b>	Fluad	15 mcg / 0.5 mL	$\geq 65$ yrs	IM

\*IM: Intramuscular, IN: Intranasal; <sup>#</sup>LAIV4 dose is in fluorescent focus units (virus count) per mL;

<sup>†</sup>Fluzone Quadrivalent 7.5 mcg/0.25 mL prefilled syringes are indicated for ages 6-35 mos but not expected to be available for the 2020-2021 season;

<sup>‡</sup>cclIV: cell-culture based influenza vaccine

#### References:

1. 2019-2020 U.S. Flu Season: Preliminary Burden Estimates. Reviewed on April 17, 2020. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm>. Accessed on July 28, 2020.
2. Vaccine Effectiveness: How Well Do the Flu Vaccines work? Reviewed on January 3, 2020. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/vaccineeffect.htm>. Accessed on September 1, 2020.
3. Grohskopf LA, Alyanak E, Broder KR et al. Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2020–21 Influenza Season. MMWR Recomm Rep 2020;69(No. RR-8):1–24.
4. US 2020-21 influenza season. Reviewed on August 20, 2020. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/2020-2021/acip-table.htm>. Accessed on September 1, 2020.

The CalOptima Approved Drug List is available on our website: [www.caloptima.org](http://www.caloptima.org)  
and for smart phone download at [www.epocrates.com](http://www.epocrates.com)