# Pharmacy Update October 2024

## **Annual Flu Vaccine Update**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that 157 million influenza vaccine doses were distributed during the 2023–24 flu season. Evidence shows flu vaccination significantly reduces the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations and intensive care unit admissions.

#### Vaccine Recommendations for the 2024-25 Influenza Season<sup>3</sup>

- All flu vaccines for the 2024–25 season will be trivalent vaccines, designed to protect against two influenza A viruses and an influenza B/Victoria virus.
- 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<sup>3</sup>

- 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 2024–25 influenza vaccine administered at least four weeks apart.
- Adults 65 years and older should preferentially receive one of the following high-dose or adjuvanted influenza vaccines: Trivalent high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine (HD-IIV3), trivalent recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV3) or trivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV3).
- Solid organ transplant recipients aged 18 to 64 years who are receiving immunosuppressive medications may now receive trivalent HD-IIV3 or trivalent alIV3 without preference over standard-dose unadjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccines.

### Influenza Vaccine Products for the 2024-2025 Influenza Season3:

Vaccine	Trade Name	HA* per dose	Age	Route <sup>†</sup>
Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV3)	Afluria Trivalent <sup>‡</sup>	7.5 mcg/0.25 mL§	6–35 mos	- IM
		15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 3 yrs	
	Fluarix Trivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 6 mos	IM
	FluLaval Trivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 6 mos	IM
	Fluzone Trivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL <sup>¶</sup>	≥ 6 mos	IM
Trivalent Cell Culture-Based Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (cllV3)	Flucelvax Trivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 6 mos	IM
Trivalent High-Dose Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (HD-IIV3)	Fluzone High-Dose	60 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 65 yrs	IM
Trivalent Adjuvanted Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (allV3)	Fluad Trivalent	15 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 65 yrs	IM
Trivalent Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (RIV3)	Flublok Trivalent	45 mcg/0.5 mL	≥ 18 yrs	IM
Trivalent Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV3)	FluMist Trivalent	10 <sup>6.5-7.5</sup> units/0.2 mL <sup>#</sup> (0.1 mL/nostril)	2–49 yrs	NAS

<sup>\*</sup>HA: hemagglutinin; †IM: intramuscular, NAS: intranasal; ‡Afluria Trivalent multidose vial may be given by the PharmaJet Stratis jet injector for persons aged 18–64 years; §Afluria Trivalent 0.25 mL prefilled syringes are no longer available; a 0.25 mL dose must be obtained from a multidose vial; ¶Fluzone Trivalent 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; #LAIV3 dose is in fluorescent focus units (virus count) per mL

#### References

- 1. Influenza Vaccine Doses Distributed, United States. Reviewed on March 22, 2024, Available at https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvaxview/dashboard/vaccination-doses-distributed.html. Accessed September 3, 2024.
- 2. Flu Vaccines Work: Benefits of the Flu Vaccine. Reviewed on August 14, 2024. Available at https://www.cdc.gov/flu-vaccines-work/benefits/?CDC AAref Val=https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/vaccineeffect.htm. Accessed September 3, 2024.
- 3. Grohskopf LA, Ferdinands JM, Blanton LH, Broder KR, Loehr J. Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices United States, 2024–25 Influenza Season. MMWR Recomm Rep 2024;73(No. RR-5):1–25. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7305a1.