Influenza Vaccine Recommendations 2015

The RCH and Monash Immunisation services are supportive of influenza vaccine being administered at any age > 6-months. The vaccine is funded in Victoria for all children and adolescents and adults with special risk conditions.[see Resources] The vaccine can be obtained in both primary care or at a hospital immunisation clinic.

There are a number of key new messages for the 2015 season.

- There are two changes for the influenza vaccine, with the H3N2 and B strains changing
- Eligibility for funded influenza vaccine has been extended to include persons who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and are aged 6 months to less than 5 years.
- The recommended age for children requiring 2 doses in the first year they receive influenza vaccine has been changed from less than 10 years to less than 9 years
- Quadrivalent influenza vaccines are available for use in 2015- but not currently funded

The trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3) in 2015 will contain:

- A H1N1/09 (pandemic strain)
- A (H3N2) (A/Switzerland/2013)
- B /Phuket/2013

**Dosing guidelines by age: inactivated influenza vaccine**

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<th>Age</th>
<th>Dose</th>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 6 months</td>
<td>Not recommended (poor immune response)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months to &lt; 3 years*</td>
<td>0.25ml</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 years to 8 years*</td>
<td>0.5ml</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 9 years</td>
<td>0.5ml</td>
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INFLUENZA VACCINE AND PREGNANCY

Pregnant women are more at risk of serious illness due to influenza compared to non-pregnant women.

- Catching the flu whilst you are pregnant can lead to serious illness such as pneumonia and can cause miscarriage or premature labour.
- Pregnant women are more likely to be hospitalised than non-pregnant women due to the flu.
- The influenza vaccination will protect the mother and baby from the risk of serious illness and hospitalisation

**Recommendation:** We recommend the influenza vaccine for all pregnant women. It is Free and whilst vaccination is recommended early in the influenza flu season [March- April] it can be received at any time


INFLUENZA VACCINE IN IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENTS

**Recommendation:** Patients who are immunocompromised due to an underlying disease and/or immune suppressant therapy are recommended to have a 2nd dose of the 2015 vaccine as they may not respond as well to a single dose.

This is because there are 2 new strains in the 2015 vaccine
INFLUENZA VACCINE AND PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE (PCV) IN CHILDREN < 4 YEARS

In 2011, United States surveillance of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) flagged an increase of febrile convulsions in children 12-24 months having Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV 13-Prevenar13®) and Trivalent Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV3) at the same time.

Recommendation (RCH and Monash Immunisation Services): We recommend separating the PCV13 and influenza vaccine by a minimum of 3-days in children < 5 years when feasible

INFLUENZA VACCINE AND EGG ALLERGY

Influenza vaccine is safe to administer in the majority of children with an egg allergy

Recommendation (RCH and Monash Immunisation Services):

- All patients with egg allergy sensitisation (i.e. positive skin prick or RAST testing, but have not eaten egg) can receive Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) as a single dose without prior vaccine skin testing
- Patients with mild to moderate egg allergy (not anaphylaxis) can receive IIV in primary care (e.g. at the immunisation centre or GP) as a single dose with observation for 30 minutes after immunisation.
- Patients with history of anaphylaxis to egg should be referred to an Allergist (RCH-Department of Allergy & Immunology; Monash Health- Monash Immunisation) for IIV. They will receive a single dose of IIV under supervision by an allergist with observation for 30 minutes after immunisation

* Please note the influenza vaccine brand “bioCSL Fluvax” is not licensed for children < 5-years

ADVERSE EVENTS FOLLOWING IMMUNISATION

SAEFVIC would be happy to discuss any vaccine safety queries 1300 882 924 (option 1)
or E: saefvic@mcri.edu.au; W: https://www.saefvic.org.au/

RESOURCES

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) Statement: Clinical advice for immunisation providers regarding the administration of 2015 seasonal influenza vaccines


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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>A/Prof Jim Buttery</th>
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