

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine (Inactivated or Recombinant): *What you need to know*

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1 Why get vaccinated?

Influenza vaccine can prevent **influenza (flu)**.

Flu is a contagious disease that spreads around the United States every year, usually between October and May. Anyone can get the flu, but it is more dangerous for some people. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions or a weakened immune system are at greatest risk of flu complications.

Pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections and ear infections are examples of flu-related complications. If you have a medical condition, such as heart disease, cancer or diabetes, flu can make it worse.

Flu can cause fever and chills, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, cough, headache, and runny or stuffy nose. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Each year **thousands of people in the United States die from flu**, and many more are hospitalized. Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related visits to the doctor each year.

2 Influenza vaccine

CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get vaccinated every flu season. **Children 6 months through 8 years of age** may need 2 doses during a single flu season. **Everyone else** needs only 1 dose each flu season.

It takes about 2 weeks for protection to develop after vaccination.

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. Even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Influenza vaccine **does not cause flu**.

Influenza vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

3 Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccine provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of influenza vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**.
- Has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (also called GBS).

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone influenza vaccination to a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting influenza vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Soreness, redness, and swelling where shot is given, fever, muscle aches, and headache can happen after influenza vaccine.
- There may be a very small increased risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after inactivated influenza vaccine (the flu shot).

Young children who get the flu shot along with pneumococcal vaccine (PCV13), and/or DTaP vaccine at the same time might be slightly more likely to have a seizure caused by fever. Tell your health care provider if a child who is getting flu vaccine has ever had a seizure.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5 What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff do not give medical advice.*

6 The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call **1-800-338-2382** to learn about the program and about filing a claim. There is a time limit to file a claim for compensation.

7 How can I learn more?

- Ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)** or
 - Visit CDC's www.cdc.gov/flu

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
**Inactivated Influenza
Vaccine**



Office use only

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Immunize Los Angeles

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Influenza (Flu) Vaccine Consent Form

I have read and understood the above information about Influenza (Flu) vaccination. I have had a chance to ask questions. I understand the benefits and risks of Influenza (Flu) vaccination and request that vaccine be given to me or the person named below whom I am authorized to sign for.

Information of Person to Receive Vaccine			
Name (Please print): Last Name, First Name Date of Birth			
Address: Street		City	State Zip
Phone Number			
X			
Signature (Person receiving Vaccine or Parent or Guardian)			Date

For Clinic Use Only	
Date of Vaccination:	
Manufacture/ Lot Number:	
Site of Injection:	
Chronic Diseases:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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Screening Questionnaire

The following questions will help us determine which vaccines may be given today. If a question is not clear, please ask your health care provider to explain it.

	Yes	No	Don't Know
1. Are you sick today?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you have allergies to medications, food, or any vaccine?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you ever had a serious reaction after receiving a vaccination?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you have cancer, leukemia, AIDS, or any other immune system problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you take cortisone, prednisone, other steroids, or anticancer drugs, or have you had x-ray treatments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. During the past year, have you received a transfusion of blood or blood products, or been given a medicine called immune (gamma) globulin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. For women: Are you pregnant or is there a chance you could become pregnant in the next three months?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Have you received any vaccinations in the past 4 weeks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature (Person receiving Vaccine or Parent or Guardian)

Date

Did you bring your immunization record card with you? Yes No

It is important for you to have a personal record of your vaccinations. If you don't have a record card, ask your health care provider to give you one. Bring this record with you every time you seek medical care. Make sure your health care provider records all your vaccinations on it.