

2008 Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the ACIP Updates and Changes (1)

- Persons and organizations that provide influenza vaccination to children should begin planning for implementation of annual vaccination for all children aged 6 months--18 years
- Annual vaccination for all children aged 6 months--18 years should begin in the 2009-2010 influenza season
- Immunization providers should begin efforts to offer influenza vaccination to all children aged 6 months--18 years in the 2008-2009 influenza season if feasible, consistent with the current recommendation that all persons who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting influenza to others should be vaccinated

BOX. Persons for whom annual vaccination is recommended

Annual vaccination against influenza is recommended for

- all persons, including school-aged children, who want to reduce the risk of becoming ill with influenza or of transmitting influenza to others
- all children aged 6–59 months (i.e., 6 months–4 years);
- all persons aged ≥ 50 years;
- children and adolescents (aged 6 months–18 years) receiving long-term aspirin therapy who therefore might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection;
- women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- adults and children who have chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except hypertension), renal, hepatic, hematological or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus);
- adults and children who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by human immunodeficiency virus);
- adults and children who have any condition (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders) that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration;
- residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities;
- health-care personnel;
- healthy household contacts (including children) and caregivers of children aged < 5 years and adults aged ≥ 50 years, with particular emphasis on vaccinating contacts of children aged < 6 months; and
- healthy household contacts (including children) and caregivers of persons with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for severe complications from influenza.

ACIP Recommendations, 2008

Note: Beginning in the 2009-10 influenza season, all children aged 6 months—18 years will be recommended for annual vaccination.

Providers and programs should develop plans to implement this recommendation during the 2008-09 influenza season, and can begin vaccinating all children aged 6 months—18 years during the 2008-09 influenza season if feasible.



Rationale for Expanding Recommendations (1)

- The recommendation to expand routine influenza vaccination to include school-age children and adolescents is based on:
 - 1) evidence that influenza vaccine is effective and safe for school-age children,
 - 2) evidence that influenza has substantial adverse impacts among school age children and their contacts (e.g., increased school absenteeism, antibiotic use, medical care visits, and parental work loss),
 - 3) the expectation that a simple age-based influenza vaccine recommendation will improve current low vaccine coverage levels among the approximately 50% of school-age children who already had a risk- or contact-based indication for annual influenza vaccination, and
 - 4) the expectation that reducing influenza transmission among children will reduce influenza among their household contacts and within the community

Rationale for Expanding Recommendations (2)

- Achieving community-level reductions in influenza will require mobilization of community resources and development of sustainable annual immunization campaigns to assist healthcare providers and immunization programs in providing influenza vaccination services to children of all ages. In many areas, innovative community-based efforts, which might include mass vaccination programs in school or other community settings, will be needed to supplement vaccination services provided in healthcare practitioners' offices or public health clinics.

Rationale for Expanding Recommendations Beginning in the 2009-10 Influenza Season

- Routine vaccination of all school-age children can begin immediately where feasible. However, because many communities will require considerable planning for implementation of influenza vaccination programs for all children, the ACIP recommends that immunization programs and providers prepare for implementation beginning with the 2009-2010 influenza season. Delaying full implementation until 2009-10 will also allow physicians, other health care providers, and immunization programs more time to identify systems and plan studies capable of evaluating the impact of vaccinating school age children on influenza epidemiology.

2008 Prevention and Control of Influenza: Updates and Changes (2)

- Either TIV or LAIV should be used when vaccinating healthy persons aged 2-49 years
 - ACIP voted for this change at October 2007 ACIP meeting
 - ACIP voted to include recommendations for screening children aged 2—4 years for asthma or wheezing
- The 2008–2009 trivalent vaccine virus strains are all new for this season
 - An A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like virus
 - An A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like virus
 - A B/Florida/4/2006-like virus
- Information is provided on oseltamivir-resistant influenza A (H1N1) strains in the United States.
- Updated information is provided on antiviral effectiveness, safety and usage*

*Including citation of recent recommendations from the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Thoracic Society, and the American Academy of Pediatrics

