

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

What's the Latest with the Flu October 2015

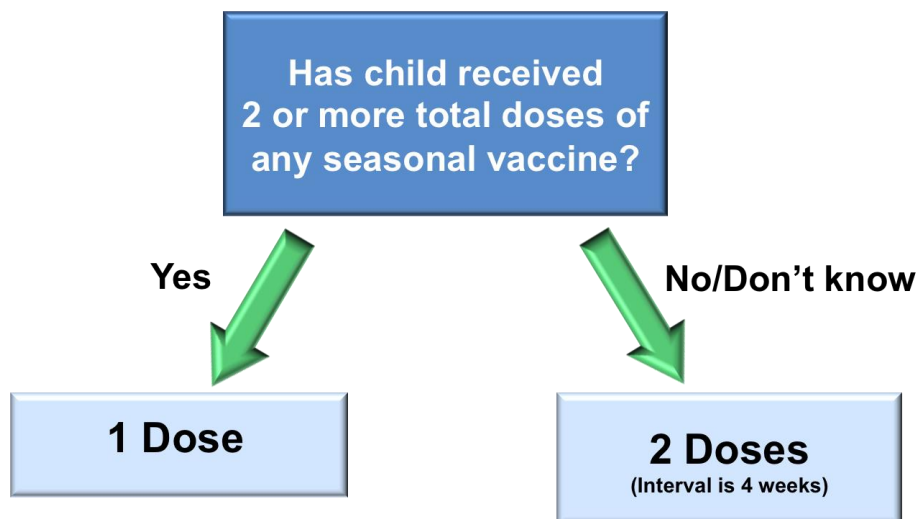
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy “**Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2015-2016** pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/09/01/peds.2015-2920” was recently released, and it offers updated recommendations for routine use of seasonal influenza vaccine and antiviral medications for the prevention and treatment of influenza in children. Important details are highlighted in the **AAP News** article aapnews.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/09/07/aapnews.20150907-1 and revised AAP policy **Influenza Immunization for All Health Care Personnel: Keep it Mandatory** pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2015/09/01/peds.2015-2922.full.pdf+html?sid=8ae8e939-fa45-443c-a06c-545671cb763c.

The 2015-2016 vaccine strains

www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/2015_16_north/en/ differ from those contained in the 2014-2015 seasonal vaccine. This year, the trivalent vaccine includes an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus, an A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus, and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage). The quadrivalent vaccine contains an additional B virus (B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus [B/Victoria lineage]). There is no preference for trivalent or quadrivalent vaccine.

The dosing algorithm for children 6 months through 8 years has changed, as it is believed the H1N1 pandemic influenza virus is no longer antigenically novel. If a child received two or more doses of trivalent or quadrivalent vaccine prior to July 1, 2015, he or she would only need one dose this year. If the child did not receive two or more doses prior to July 1, 2015, or if the influenza vaccine history is not clear, two doses should be given this year at a four week interval. See the updated AAP dosing algorithm:

Number of Seasonal Influenza Doses for Children 6 Months Through 8 Years of Age



The AAP recommends annual seasonal influenza immunization for all people 6 months and older, including all children and adolescents. **It is especially important to vaccinate children and adolescents with an increased risk of complications from influenza, including those with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes mellitus, hemodynamically significant cardiac disease, immunosuppression, or neurologic and neurodevelopmental disorders.** Children younger than 2 years are also at an elevated risk of hospitalization and complications attributable to influenza. Optimal protection is achieved through annual immunization. Not everyone understands the importance of annual immunization, so it is valuable for you, as a clinician, to explain why this is important.

Consider taking the following steps NOW:

- Get vaccinated and talk to colleagues about why they should get vaccinated too.
- Identify patients at an increased risk of complications from influenza and encourage vaccination.
- To protect children younger than 6 months of age, immunize adults who are caregivers or close contacts to reduce their risk of contagion. This strategy is called cocooning. If you do not vaccinate adults in your office, direct these people to a nearby vaccination site.
- Meet with staff to discuss what worked and didn't work in the office during the most recent flu season.
- Train staff on standard precautions, infection control, seasonal and pandemic influenza, and strategies for communicating the importance of immunization.
- Improve office preparedness. Additional office preparedness strategies are available in the **seasonal** www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunization_influenza_implementation_guidance.pdf and **mandatory influenza immunization for health care personnel implementation guide** www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/immunization_hcpmandatoryfluguidance.pdf and section 9 of the **Preparedness Checklist for Pediatric Practices** www.aap.org/disasters/checklist.

As a large number of children are enrolled in Head Start or other early education and child care programs throughout the country, partnering with these programs to encourage vaccination of all children, staff, and caregivers is beneficial. Share information about AAP training materials and other **resources** www.healthychildcare.org/flu.html.

There are ongoing concerns about certain influenza viruses. One human infection with a novel influenza A virus was recently reported by the state of Michigan. The person was infected with an influenza A (H3N2) variant (H3N2v) virus and was hospitalized in June 2015, but has fully recovered. No human-to-human transmission has been identified and the case reported close contact with **swine** www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm in the week prior to illness onset. The varying characteristics of influenza A viruses are described in this **AAP News article** aapnews.aappublications.org/content/36/9/8.full.pdf+html?sid=e780f579-4a38-46ff-889d-7a79e74673e7.

For more information, see the **AAP Red Book Online Influenza Resource page** redbook.solutions.aap.org/ss/influenza-resources.aspx or the **CDC FluView** www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/. The new **Protect Children from Influenza** https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/disasters_dpac_flu_infographic.pdf infographic identifies actions pediatricians can take to help protect children, especially those at highest risk. Also see the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report "**Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2015–16 Influenza Season**

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6430a3.htm?s_cid=mm6430a3_w". All What's the Latest with the Flu messages will be **archived** www.aap.org/disasters/flu. Members of the AAP also have access to **Flu Vaccine Recommendations Speaking Points** www.aap.org/en-us/my-aap/advocacy/workingwiththedia/speaking-tips/Pages/Flu-Vaccine-Recommendations-Speaking-Points.aspx?nfstatus=200&nftoken=2f639b7c-4fbe-418b-ba6b-46a67f2eec43&nfstatusdescription=Set+the+cookie+token and updates relating to the **2015-16 Influenza Vaccine Supply** www.aap.org/en-us/professional-resources/practice-support/Vaccine-Financing-Delivery/Pages/Private/Influenza-Vaccine-Supply-Update.aspx?nfstatus=200&nftoken=ab08cc67-4b01-49c3-8a13-7720ccec8067&nfstatusdescription=Set+the+cookie+token.