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

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

To allow medical care provider(s) accurate immunization status information, an immunization assessment, and a recommended schedule for future immunizations, information will be sent to the Michigan Care Improvement Registry. Individuals have the right to request that their medical care provider not forward immunization information to the Registry.

Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)  
Inactivated Influenza Vaccine  

DCH-0457  
AUTH: P. H. S., Act 42, Sect. 2126.
INFLUENZA (FLU) VACCINE
PATIENT INFORMED CONSENT FORM

The Vaccine

The flu vaccine contains only killed viruses; therefore it cannot cause the "flu". Occasional cases of respiratory disease after vaccination represent coincidental illness not related to the vaccine itself.

Special Precautions

The influenza vaccine should not be administered to individuals with a history of allergy to CHICKEN, EGG, or any other component of influenza vaccine (including THIRMEROSAL) without first consulting your doctor.

Persons with a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) should discuss the vaccine with their physician, especially if less than 65 years old. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is an uncommon illness characterized by ascending paralysis, which is usually self-limiting. Except for the 1976-1977 influenza vaccine, influenza has not been associated with GBS.

Pregnant women, especially in the last two trimesters, are strongly encouraged to receive the flu vaccine. The vaccine poses no risk to the pregnancy, but the disease Influenza may be fatal to mother and/or fetus.

Person taking Theophylline or Coumadin should monitor for enhanced drug effect or toxicity after the vaccine.

Risk and Possible Side Effects

The most frequent side effect of vaccination is soreness at the injection site for up to two days. Fever, malaise, or muscle aches occur infrequently.

Immediate, presumable allergic reactions such as hives, allergic asthma or systemic anaphylaxis occur rarely. These reactions probably result from a hypersensitivity to a component of the vaccine – the majority of which are related to egg protein.

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Authorization for Vaccination

Name of Patient: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Signature of Patient: ___________________________

Brand Lot Number: GSK GF2PK Expiration Date: 06/30/2021 Site: ___________________________

I have read the above information, and have had an opportunity to have questions answered. I consent to being immunized at this time. I agree to report any side effects of vaccination to my physician/health care provider, should they occur.

Nurses Signature ___________________________

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