

# ACIP Reviews What's New With Flu

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's updated recommendations for the 2007-2008 flu season emphasize vaccinating health care personnel and catching up previously unvaccinated children aged 6 months to 8 years with two doses of vaccine.

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) published its updated flu vaccination recommendations for the 2007-2008 flu season in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR 2007;56RR-6:1-40). New recommendations for the upcoming flu season include the following:

► **For health care administrators.** Treat the vaccination of health care personnel as a patient safety issue and implement ways to encourage all health care providers to get flu shots. For example, require signed statements from all health care providers who decline flu vaccination.

► **For clinicians.** In addition to those who were not previously vaccinated, those children aged 6 months to 8 years who received only one dose of flu vaccine in earlier years should receive two doses this year. Administer a second dose of the trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) at least 4 weeks after the first dose. Clinicians who are using the live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) for these children should give a second dose at least 6-10 weeks after the first dose.

**The CDC encourages all health care providers to get flu shots and suggests that signed statements be required from all those who decline to do so.**

The TIV may be used for any person aged 6 months and older, including those with high-risk conditions.

The LAIV is currently approved only for healthy, nonpregnant individuals aged 5-49 years. The influenza vaccine for the 2007-2008 season contains a new strain called A/Solomon Islands/3/2006 (H1N1)-like, along with two strains that have been used in previous vaccines: A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like and B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like viruses.

Vaccination coverage continues to fall short of the CDC's recommendations, and the CDC encourages clinicians to be proactive about vaccinating their patients and to offer vaccination throughout the flu season.

As in recent years, the CDC recommends annual vaccination for the following groups:

- Anyone (including school-aged children) who wants to reduce the risk of getting or transmitting the flu.
- All children aged 6 months to 4 years.
- All adults aged 50 years and older.
- Children and teens aged 6 months to 18 years who receive long-term aspirin therapy.
- Pregnant women or women who plan

to be pregnant during the flu season.

► All persons with chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, liver, kidney, or metabolic disorders, including diabetes but excluding hypertension.

► All persons with conditions that could impede respiratory function (such as cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, or other neuromuscular problems).

► All immunosuppressed persons.

► Health care personnel.

► Healthy household contacts and care-

givers of children younger than 5 years or of adults aged 50 years and older.

► Healthy household contacts and caregivers of anyone with a medical condition that increases the risk for complications from influenza.

► Individuals in nursing homes or chronic care facilities.

Any updates to the 2007-2008 flu season vaccination recommendations will be posted on the CDC's Web site at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu). ■

## VERBATIM

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Please see brief summary of full prescribing information on next page.

**References:** 1. Jorizzo J, Stewart D, Bucko A, et al. Randomized trial evaluating a new 0.5% fluorouracil formulation demonstrates efficacy after 1-, 2-, or 4-week treatment in patients with actinic keratosis. *Cutis*. 2002;70:335-339. 2. Carac<sup>®</sup> Prescribing Information, Dermik Laboratories, 2006. 3. Loven K, Stein L, Furst K, Levy S. Evolution of the efficacy and tolerability of 0.5% fluorouracil cream and 5% fluorouracil cream applied to each side of the face in patients with actinic keratosis. *Clin Ther*. 2002;24:990-1000.

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