

Revised! Give these people influenza vaccine.

This year, influenza is again expected to kill more than 36,000 people in the United States.

Due to a shortage of influenza vaccine in the U.S. for the 2004–05 influenza season, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued interim recommendations for prioritization of this limited vaccine. The information below, summarizes the new interim recommendations.

☐ ALL children age 6–23 months

☐ ALL persons 65 years of age and older

☐ Persons with certain high-risk medical conditions

Any person (2 years of age or older) who is at increased risk for complications from influenza because of underlying medical conditions, including

- ✓ residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house persons of any age who have chronic medical conditions
- ✓ adults and children who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma
- ✓ adults and children who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the past year because of chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, hemoglobinopathies, or immunosuppression
- ✓ children and adolescents (age 6 months to 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for developing Reye's syndrome after influenza illness
- ✓ all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season

☐ Household contacts of all children 0–5 months of age and their out-of-home caregivers

Persons who should not be vaccinated:

Consult the current recommendations from CDC for guidance on contraindications and precautions for use of trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine and live attenuated intranasal influenza vaccine.

☐ Health care workers

Health care workers and others having direct, face-to-face contact with persons in high-risk groups should be vaccinated to decrease the risk of transmitting infection to persons for whom influenza could be a serious, life-threatening disease. Those who should be vaccinated include the following:

- ✓ physicians, nurses, receptionists, and other personnel in hospital or outpatient settings, including medical emergency response workers
- ✓ employees of nursing homes and chronic-care facilities who have contact with patients or residents
- ✓ employees of assisted living and other residences for persons in high-risk groups
- ✓ persons who provide home care to people in high-risk groups

Talking points to use during the 2004-05 season:

- ✓ Because of the influenza vaccine shortage this year, health officials are recommending that the limited vaccine be given to those persons who are most likely to develop complications from the disease. Health care workers who have direct contact with high-risk patients as well as caretakers and other close contacts of infants <6 months of age should also be vaccinated. For people with risk factors, influenza is a life-threatening disease.
- ✓ Remember to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and wash your hands often. If you suspect you have influenza, stay home and take care of yourself.
- ✓ The live attenuated intranasal influenza vaccine (FluMist™) is an option for healthy, nonpregnant persons 5–49 years of age (exception: health care workers and close contacts of severely immunocompromised persons).

Sources:

1. "Prevention and Control of Influenza—Recommendations of ACIP," MMWR, May 28, 2004, Vol. 53, No. RR-6.
2. "Interim Influenza Vaccination Recommendations, 2004–05 Influenza Season," MMWR, Oct 8, 2004, Vol. 53, No. 39