



TO: UNC Ambulatory Care Physicians and Clinic Managers

FROM: David J. Weber, MD, MPH                      Maryann Oertel, PharmD, BCPS  
 Associate Chief Medical Officer                      Clinical Specialist, Dept of Pharmacy

RE: Influenza Vaccines for 2017-2018

DATE: September 1, 2017

UNC Health Care has received its initial supply of influenza vaccine for the 2017-18 influenza season. The vaccines have been added to Epic and will be available for practitioners to start vaccinating patients beginning September 1st. Occupational Health Services will start vaccinating healthcare personnel starting on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Per the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the "nasal spray" flu vaccine, "is not recommended for use in any population for 2017-18." This year's injectable vaccines purchased by UNC Health Care are all quadrivalent, covering 4 strains of influenza (2 A strains and 2 B strains). *The specific vaccine that will be offered, Flulaval (GSK), is FDA-approved for administration to patients 6 months of age through adult at the same dose for all patients, 0.5 mL IM. This is different than in previous years where the pediatric version of the vaccine was 0.25 mL and the adult dose 0.5 mL.*

The CDC makes the following statements regarding immunization of persons with a history of egg allergies:

- Persons who are able to eat lightly cooked egg (e.g., scrambled egg) without reaction are unlikely to be egg-allergic.
- Persons who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg should receive any licensed, recommended influenza vaccine age appropriate influenza vaccine.
- Persons reporting symptoms other than hives, such as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis; or who required epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention, may also receive any licensed and recommended influenza vaccine that is otherwise appropriate.
  - Additionally, for these persons, vaccine should be administered in an inpatient or outpatient medical setting and supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions.
- A previous severe allergic reaction to influenza vaccine, regardless of the component suspected of causing the reaction, is a contraindication to future receipt of the vaccine.

However, UNC Health Care has purchased a small amount of the egg free recombinant vaccine.

All influenza vaccines may be administered concurrently or sequentially with other inactivated or live vaccines.

CDC recommends that all women who are pregnant or who might be pregnant in the influenza season receive influenza vaccine. Pregnant women may receive any licensed, recommended, age-appropriate vaccine.

Healthcare personnel providing influenza vaccine for administration should be familiar with the contraindications and precautions to providing flu vaccine. Patients should also typically be screened for latex and thimerosal allergies. However, all of the influenza vaccine purchased by UNC MC this year is latex-free and thimerosal-free. **The chart below summarizes the specific vaccine availability, features, and contraindications.**

Influenza Vaccine Type	Approved Age Range	Vaccine available for ordering	Quadrivalent or Trivalent?	Contains Egg Products?	Contains Preservative (Thimerosal)?	Contains Latex?
Flulaval single dose prefilled syringes	6 mo - adult	In stock	Quadrivalent	Yes	No	No
Flublok (recombinant vaccine)	18 y & up	In stock	Quadrivalent	No	No	No

ACIP recommends that children aged 6 months through 8 years who have previously received  $\geq 2$  total doses of trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccine before July 1, 2017 require only 1 dose for the 2017-18 season. The two previous doses need not have been given during the same season or consecutive seasons.

Children in this age group who have not previously received a total of  $\geq 2$  doses of trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccine before July 1, 2017 require 2 doses for 2017–18. The interval between the 2 doses should be at least 4 weeks.

Complete information on influenza vaccine indications, dosing, and safety is available in the most current CDC/ACIP publication on influenza vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/rr/rr6602a1.htm>

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS), by Federal Law, must be handed out to all influenza vaccine recipients before immunization. These statements are available via the CDC website for all of the influenza vaccines in both English and Spanish: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html>.

Clinics who completed the prebook/preorder survey sent out earlier this month, will receive their first shipment flu vaccines prior to Sept 1. Clinics who did not respond to the survey or those who would like additional vaccine will be able to place orders through the Pharmacy Supply Chain online ordering system starting Friday, Sept 1st.

**When ordering vaccine from the Pharmacy Supply Chain:**

- Recall that pharmacy orders for clinics are now placed online: <http://172.28.118.138/>
- User names and passwords to the online system have been distributed. For more info see: <http://pharmacy.intranet.unchealthcare.org/pharmacy/services/pharmacy-support-service/clinicresources.html>
  - If you have not yet set up a user account, please complete this form to get access: <http://pharmacy.intranet.unchealthcare.org/pharmacy/services/pharmacy-support-service/rxworks-userid-password-request>
- We request that you order a 2 week supply of the vaccine at a time.
- The vaccine is not returnable. All doses ordered will be charged to the clinic.

**Questions?** Any clinical questions may be addressed to the Drug Information Service at 984-974-2373. Any questions about ordering or delivery can be directed to the Pharmacy Supply Chain Management Team at 984-974-6513 or email [uncpharmacypurch@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:uncpharmacypurch@unchealth.unc.edu).