

FluMist® Quadrivalent Vaccine Supply Update

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Family Health Teams, Infection Control Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics, Hospitals, Hospital Occupational Health, Hospital Pharmacies, Participating Health Care Agencies, Participating UIIP Pharmacies, Correctional Facilities

Date: November 13, 2015

This HealthFAX is an update to the one sent on October 16th, *Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine for Children*. As anticipated the health unit has received an additional supply of the FluMist® Quadrivalent vaccine.

FluMist® Quadrivalent vaccine can now be administered to anyone 2 through 17 years of age who prefer this vaccine over the injectable Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIV), provided they do not have any of the contraindications listed below.

According to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), this is the preferred vaccine over QIV or Trivalent Influenza Vaccine (TIV) in children 2 - 5 years of age.

If you do not have FluMist® Quadrivalent vaccine available, we recommend you give the injectable QIV (Fluzone® Quadrivalent or FluLavel® Tetra) to ensure that children receive their influenza vaccine in a timely fashion.

Any pharmacy who requested FluMist® Quadrivalent vaccine on a previous vaccine order will be receiving 10 doses in their next order which will be ready for pick up Tuesday, November 17th.

All health care providers including pharmacies can order additional supply of FluMist® Quadrivalent vaccine next week (order due by Tuesday November 17th at 3:00 p.m.), which will be ready for pick up starting Tuesday, November 24th.

FluMist® Quadrivalent (Q-LAIV) should not be given to the following people:

- While TIV & QIV can be given to egg allergic people, Q-LAIV should not be given to egg allergic individuals, as egg allergy has not yet been studied for Q-LAIV.
- Children less than 24 months of age, due to increased risk of wheezing.
- Individuals with severe asthma, as defined as currently on oral or high dose inhaled glucocorticosteroids or active wheezing, or those with medically attended wheezing in the seven days prior to vaccination.
- Children and adolescents, 2 - 17 years of age currently receiving aspirin or aspirin-containing therapy because of the association of Reye's syndrome with aspirin and wild-type influenza infection. It is recommended that aspirin-containing products in children under 18 years of age be delayed for four weeks after receipt of Q-LAIV.
- Pregnant women, because it is a live attenuated vaccine and there is a lack of safety data at this time. However, it is not contraindicated in breastfeeding mothers.
- Persons with immune compromising conditions, due to underlying disease, therapy, or both, as the vaccine contains live attenuated virus.
- Taking a medication active against influenza (influenza antiviral medication).
- Has developed Guillain-Barre syndrome within six weeks of a previous flu vaccination.
- As a precautionary measure, Q-LAIV recipients should avoid close association with persons with severe immune compromising conditions (e.g. bone marrow transplant recipients requiring isolation) for at least two weeks following vaccination, because of the theoretical risk for transmitting a vaccine virus and causing infection.