

FluZone®

This vaccine is administered by injection and is safe to use for children over the age of six months. Any child less than 9 years of age who has not previously been vaccinated against influenza will need two doses spaced at least one month apart.

Vaccination is important for all children but is especially recommended for the following groups:

- Children 6 months to 5 years of age
- Children with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, sickle cell, HIV, or kidney disease. Please note that FluZone® is recommended in children with asthma while FluMist® is contraindicated in children with asthma or reactive airway disease.
- Children on chronic aspirin therapy
- Caregivers and household contacts of children <6 months of age

Possible Side Effects: Fever; muscle aches; Guillain-Barre syndrome; hives; local redness, tenderness, and swelling at the injection site; and rarely anaphylaxis.

Contraindications:

This vaccine should NOT be used in children with:

- allergy to influenza virus vaccine, egg or egg products, chicken, chicken feathers, chicken dander, gentamicin or other aminoglycoside
- past history of Guillain-Barre syndrome
- fever due to current illness

Use with caution if child has history of previous febrile seizure.

Most insurance companies do reimburse for the cost of this vaccine.

FluZone® Preservative Free

This vaccine has the same dosing schedule, side effects, and contraindications as the regular FluZone®.

This is the preferred form of the Flu vaccine for children less than 3. It does not contain thimerosal which is a type of preservative.

Most insurance companies do reimburse for the cost of this vaccine.

FluMist®

This vaccine is administered through the nose. It is used only for children 5 years of age or older. For children ages 5-8 years who have never received influenza vaccine, a second dose will need to be given 60 days after the initial dose. If child is older than 9 or they previously have been vaccinated for influenza, only one dose is needed per season. This vaccine provides slightly better immunity from influenza than the injection form. It is about 87% effective at providing protection from influenza.

Possible Side Effects: Headache, irritability, chills, fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, muscle aches, weakness, ear infection, runny nose, sore throat, cough, and rarely anaphylaxis.

Contraindications:

This vaccine should NOT be used in children with:

- history of asthma or reactive airway disease
- allergy to influenza virus vaccine, egg or egg products, or the antibiotic gentamicin
- medical condition requiring treatment with aspirin
- history of Guillain-Barre syndrome
- known or suspected immune deficiency disease or their close contacts. Recipients of this vaccine should avoid contact with immunocompromised individuals for at least 21 days.
- chronic lung or heart disease
- any patient with a chronic medical condition such as diabetes or sickle cell requiring hospitalization for that condition during the past year
- who have received the MMR or Varicella vaccine within the past month. It is safe, however, to give FluMist® on the same day as MMR or Varicella.

Since this vaccine is new, we are uncertain at this time which insurance companies are reimbursing for the cost.

FluMist® does not contain any preservatives.