



Pre-sunrise at Indian Harbour Beach, FL

PIC QUESTION OF THE WEEK: 9/06/10

Q. What are some of the new CDC recommendations for administration of influenza vaccine during the upcoming season?

A. Both the inactivated (TIV) and live-attenuated trivalent influenza virus (LAIV) vaccines for the 2010-11 will contain the strains A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like (the same strain as was used for 2009 H1N1 monovalent vaccines), A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like, and B/Brisbane/60/2008-like antigens. Inclusion of the A/California strain will provide protection against the H1N1 virus that was widespread during the 2009 - 2010 season. The following manufacturers have been licensed to provide inactivated, trivalent influenza vaccine for the 2010-11 seasons:

Trivalent Influenza Virus (TIV): Afluria (CSL Biotherapies), Fluarix (Glaxo SmithKline), FluLaval (Glaxo SmithKline), Fluvirin (Novartis Vaccine), Fluzone (sanofi pasteur), Fluzone High-Dose (sanofi pasteur) - contains 60 mcg of each antigen and is approved for persons aged ≥ 65 years.

Live-Attenuated Influenza Virus (LAIV): Flumist (MedImmune)

Additional recommendations for the upcoming season include:

- vaccine should be administered to all persons aged ≥ 6 months;
- children aged 6 months–8 years whose vaccination status is unknown or who have never received seasonal influenza vaccine before (or who received seasonal vaccine for the first time in 2009–10 but received only 1 dose in their first year of vaccination) as well as children who did not receive at least 1 dose of an influenza A (H1N1) 2009 monovalent vaccine regardless of previous influenza vaccine history should receive 2 doses of a 2010–11 seasonal influenza vaccine (minimum interval: 4 weeks) during the 2010–11 season;
- information about other standard-dose newly approved influenza vaccines and previously approved vaccines with expanded age indications.

The FDA Advisory Committee has recently recommended that Afluria® vaccine NOT be used in children less than 9 years of age due to increased reports of fever and febrile seizures. The vaccine may, however, be administered if the risk of influenza exceeds the risks of vaccination.

References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention and control of influenza with vaccines: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5908.pdf> Accessed August 31, 2010.
- Food and Drug Administration. Afluria (CSL Ltd.) influenza virus vaccine: label change - risk of fever and febrile seizure. <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm220764.htm> Accessed August 31, 2010.

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