2016-2017 Influenza Vaccine Data from the
U.S. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

Thank you for visiting the VAERS website. This site provides information and CDC website links about influenza vaccine safety.

Each year the formulation for the influenza vaccine is selected based on the virus strains that are expected to circulate. Further information on the types of virus strains and influenza vaccine for this season is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2016-2017.htm

During the 2016-17 season, the following influenza vaccines are available and recommended for use:
- Quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)
- Quadrivalent intradermal inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4)
- Quadrivalent cell culture-based inactivated influenza vaccine (ccIIV4)
- Trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3)
- Trivalent high dose inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV3)
- Trivalent recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV3)
- Trivalent adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine (aIIV3)

See https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/protect/vaccine/rr6505-table-1.pdf for a complete list of influenza vaccines available, including the brand and manufacturer names.

During the 2016-17 influenza season, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the "nasal spray" flu vaccine, should not be used during the 2016-2017 flu season.

ACIP continues to recommend annual flu vaccination, with either the inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV) for everyone 6 months or older.

Fluad™ is a newly licensed trivalent influenza vaccine which contains an adjuvant (a substance that increases the vaccine's ability to stimulate the body's immune system) for persons ages 65 years or older. Flublok® has been approved for adults aged 18 or older. It was previously approved for adults aged 18-49 years old.

Febrile seizures have been observed in some young children who receive IIV and 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine at the same healthcare visit. Although febrile seizures in children are frightening for parents, children who have a febrile seizure following vaccination recover quickly and have no long-term effects. Vaccination is the best way to prevent illness and serious complications from influenza and pneumococcal disease. For information on febrile seizures in oung children after influenza vaccine (see http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/febrile-seizures.html)

CDC and FDA monitor VAERS reports during the influenza season to look for unusual or unexpected patterns that might indicate a possible safety concern. The data are regularly reviewed by vaccine safety experts.

Archived material of VAERS influenza vaccine safety data from previous seasons is available at: http://vaers.hhs.gov/resources/updates

In addition, VAERS data are publicly available at the following sites:
▪ Download at: https://vaers.hhs.gov/data/index from the VAERS website.
▪ Search at: https://wonder.cdc.gov/vaers.html on the VAERS WONDER tool (see instructions below or to view training on the use of VAERS WONDER, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOH7cFWS7o4)

Instructions for using VAERS WONDER data search tool
Go to https://wonder.cdc.gov/vaers.html
1. If you have a specific VAERS ID number that you want to view, click on the grey box entitled "VAERS Report Details, enter the VAERS ID number, and click on the gray box entitled "Event Details."
2. If you want to do a general search of the VAERS data, go back to the opening VAERS WONDER page and click on the grey box "VAERS Data Search."
3. In section 1 of the VAERS Request screen, labeled "Organize table layout", under "Group Results By" select the variables that you are interested in viewing. If you would like to see the adverse event description reported, select "VAERS ID" as the first choice in the "Group Results By" box and check "Adverse Event Description" in the next section below entitled "Optional Measures."
4. In section 2 of the Request screen, labeled "Select symptoms," click the "Search" tab above the Symptoms list.
5. Inside the Search form, type item you would like to search for (e.g., "ALLERGY") in the first entry field and then click the gray "Search" button at the bottom of the Search form.
6. Select the desired Symptom codes shown in the "Results of Search" form.
   ▪ Press the "Ctrl" key while clicking on additional codes.
   ▪ The selected items appear in the "Currently selected" box on the right.
7. In section 3 of the Request screen, labeled "Select vaccine characteristics," select the desired vaccine products shown from the "Vaccine Product" list.
   ▪ Press the "Ctrl" key while clicking on additional vaccines.
   ▪ The selected vaccines appear in the "Currently selected" box on the right.
   ▪ In this section, you can also select a specific vaccine manufacturer, dose number or lot number to search.
8. In section 4 of the Request screen, labeled "Select location, age, gender" select the locations(s), age(s) and gender you are interested in seeing.

9. In section 5 of the Request screen labeled "Select other event characteristics," select the specific characteristics you want to search.

10. In section 6 of the Request screen labeled "Select text fields," select the specific words or phrases from each section on the VAERS report that you want to search.

11. In section 7-11, select report completed dates, report received dates, vaccination dates, adverse event onset dates and death dates that you want to search.
12. Click any "Send" button on the right hand side of the screen. The results appear in the Results screen.

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