Influenza Vaccine Screening Algorithm for Persons who Report Egg Allergy

REMINDER! A prior severe allergic reaction to influenza vaccine, regardless of the component suspected to be responsible for the reaction, is a contraindication to receiving influenza vaccine

Can the individual eat lightly cooked eggs (e.g. scrambled eggs) without reaction?*

YES

Administer vaccine per usual protocol (IIV3/IIV4/LAIV4)

NO

After eating eggs or egg-containing foods, does the person experience ONLY hives?

YES

Administer RIV3 (for ages 18-49 years) OR Administer IIV3 or IIV4

Keep patient sitting and observe for reaction for at least 30 minutes after vaccination (Do not administer LAIV4)

NO

Does the individual experience other symptoms?

Cardiovascular changes (e.g. hypotension)
Respiratory distress (e.g. wheezing)
Gastrointestinal (e.g. nausea/vomiting)
Reaction requiring epinephrine
Reaction requiring emergency medical attention

YES

Administer RIV3 (for ages 18-49 years) OR Refer to physician with expertise in management of allergic conditions for further evaluation

NO

KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Allergy to eggs must be distinguished from allergy to influenza vaccine
- Individuals who have no known history of exposure to egg, but are suspected of being egg allergic based on previously performed allergy testing, should receive consultation with physician who has expertise in the management of allergic conditions prior to vaccination
- RIV3 (FluBlok®) does not contain egg protein. RIV3 may be used in persons 18-49 years who report an egg allergy
- All other flu vaccines for 2013-2014 season (all brands of IIV3, IIV4) contain egg protein or a trace of egg protein (ccIIV3)
- Measures, such as dividing and administering the flu vaccine by a two-step approach and skin testing with vaccine, are not necessary before administering IIV3 or IIV4 to persons who only have hives after eating eggs/egg-containing foods
- All vaccines should be administered in settings where personnel and equipment are available for rapid recognition and treatment of anaphylactic (severe allergic) reactions.
- All vaccination providers and staff should be familiar with their clinical emergency plan and should be CPR certified
- The clinic should have at minimum, epinephrine (check expiration date) and equipment for maintaining an airway

* Individuals with an egg allergy may tolerate egg in baked products (e.g. bread, cake). However, tolerance to egg-containing foods does not exclude the possibility of egg allergy.

Flu abbreviations for 2013-14:

- IIV: Inactivated Influenza Vaccine, trivalent (IIV3) or quadrivalent (IIV4)
- LAIV4: Live, Attenuated, Influenza Vaccine, quadrivalent
- ccIIV3: Cell Culture-based Inactivated Influenza Vaccine, trivalent
- RIV3: Recombinant Influenza Vaccine, trivalent

For more information or updates to this form: Contact your local health department or visit MI Dept of Comm Health http://www.michigan.gov/flu or CDC www.cdc.gov/flu

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