2017-18 Influenza Vaccine Screening for Persons who Report Egg Allergy

For the 2017-18 influenza season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the following:

1. Persons with a history of egg allergy who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg should receive influenza vaccine
   - May use any recommended age-appropriate influenza vaccine (i.e., any IIV or RIV)

2. Persons who report having a reaction to egg involving symptoms other than hives (such as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis) or who required epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention:
   - May receive any recommended age-appropriate influenza vaccine (i.e., any IIV or RIV)
   - Vaccine should be administered in an inpatient or outpatient medical setting
   - Administration should be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions
   - No post-vaccination observation period recommended specifically for egg-allergic persons
     - However ACIP recommends that vaccine providers consider observing patients for 15 minutes following administration of any vaccine to decrease the risk for injury should syncope occur

Remember:
A previous severe allergic reaction to influenza vaccine, regardless of the component suspected of being responsible for the reaction, is a contraindication to future receipt of the vaccine.


Michigan Department of Health and Human Services — Division of Immunization
Points to consider for the 2017-18 Influenza Season

- **Influenza vaccine abbreviations**
  - Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) – trivalent (IIV3) and quadrivalent (IIV4)
  - Cell-Cultured Inactivated Influenza Vaccine – quadrivalent (ccIIV4)
  - Recombinant hemagglutinin Influenza Vaccine – trivalent (RIV3) and quadrivalent (RIV4)

- **Severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, can occur to components of all vaccines**
  - Such reactions are rare and are not always related to egg proteins

- **Review of the studies looking at IIV indicated that severe allergic reactions in persons with egg allergy are unlikely**
  - In a Vaccine Safety Datalink study of over 7.4 million doses of IIV3 given without other vaccines, there were only 10 cases of anaphylaxis

- **With the exceptions of RIV3, RIV4, and ccIIV4, currently available influenza vaccines are prepared by producing virus in embryonated eggs**
  - RIV3, RIV4 and ccIIV4, are produced using non-egg based technologies, but only RIV3 and RIV4 are considered egg-free
  - RIV3 (Flublok®) and RIV4 (Flublok® Quadrivalent) are indicated for persons aged 18 years and older

- **All vaccination providers and staff should be familiar with their clinical emergency response plan and certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)**

- **For clinics that are administering vaccines, a minimum of epinephrine and equipment for maintaining an airway should be readily available, and staff should be trained on how to use it appropriately**
  - Emergency medications, such as epinephrine, and equipment should not be expired or outdated

- **For persons who report an egg allergy, it is not recommended to administer divided doses of influenza vaccine or to skin test with the vaccine before administering any flu product**