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FLU UPDATES

FDA APPROVES FIRST QUADRIVALENT VACCINE

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first influenza vaccine to contain four strains of the influenza virus, two influenza A strains and two influenza B strains. FluMist Quadrivalent is in nasal spray form for people ages 2 years through 49 years. According to [an article published](#) in Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP), MedImmune plans to have the quadrivalent vaccine ready for the 2013-14 flu season.

Press Releases: [FDA approves first quadrivalent vaccine to prevent seasonal influenza](#)

- [MedImmune Announces FDA Approval of First Four-Strain Flu Vaccine](#)

2012-2013 INFLUENZA SEASON

The FDA Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee [voted to follow](#) the World Health Organizations (WHO) recommendations for the virus strains in the 2012-13 influenza vaccine. The viruses recommended are: A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09, A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2) (replacing A/Perth/16/2009) and B/Wisconsin/1/2010 (replacing B/Brisbane/60/2008). Related news article: [FDA picks two new vaccine strains for 2012-13 flu season](#)

LATE INFLUENZA SEASON

According to CDC experts this is the latest start to the flu season in 29 years. [Possible reasons](#) for the mild season include mild weather, increased vaccination rates, and high population immunity owing to a fairly stable set of circulating viruses.

Related articles:

- [Late Start to Influenza Season](#)
- [European Surveillance report](#)

RAPID INFLUENZA TESTS

A [meta-analysis in *Annals of Internal Medicine*](#) of studies comparing the performance of rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs) with polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) found that RIDTs are useful for confirming flu, but not for ruling it out. The researchers found that the tests were more accurate in children than in adults and that RIDTs were better at detecting influenza A than influenza B.

Related news article: [Rapid Flu Tests a Good First Step: Study](#)

ANTIVIRALS

[Another meta-analysis](#) of 74 studies published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that antiviral therapy with oral oseltamivir and inhaled zanamivir may provide a net benefit over no treatment of influenza. However, the researchers stated that the quality of the evidence was deemed low. They called for high-quality randomized trials.

INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES

- [Another study shows limited flu vaccine benefits in seniors](#)
- [Reports detail risk of seizures in kids after flu vaccination](#)

H5N1 STUDY CONTROVERSY

- [H5N1 Research Discussed in Special Session at ASM](#)

AVIAN H5N1

- [Vietnamese man hospitalized with H5N1 infection](#)
- [Fourth H5N1 human case in Bangladesh](#)

BAT INFLUENZA

This week CDC posted a [Q&A on Bat Influenza](#).

Related news article: [New influenza A virus found in bats](#)

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

MDCH'S [MONTHLY](#) FLU POSTERS

NEW IMMUNIZATION RESOURCE

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) developed a [video series](#) on communicating vaccine science to parents. There are five components to the series, each 5-10 minutes in length.

1st National Immunization Conference Online (NICO)

The 1st NICO, a virtual conference, will take place March 26-28, 2012. Workshops will include multiple presentations and will be one hour in length, and will be recorded. For more information go to the CDC's National Immunization Conference [section](#).

ADDITIONAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

- [Adult vaccination rate still too low](#)
- [When Doctors Fire Noncooperative Families as Patients](#)
- [How to halt spread of disease](#)

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