Administering Influenza Vaccines: Intramuscular and Intranasal

Intramuscular (IM) Injection

Inactivated Influenza Vaccines
(allIV3, HD-IIV3, IIV4, ccIIV4, RIV4)

1. Use a needle long enough to reach deep into the muscle. For infants ≥6 months and children, use a 1” needle. For adolescents and adults, a 1-1 ½” needle should be used.¹
2. Choose the appropriate site. With your left hand², spread the skin taut between the thumb and forefinger, isolating the muscle.
3. With your right hand², insert the needle at a 90° angle to the skin with a quick thrust.
4. Push down on the plunger and inject the entire contents of the syringe. There is no need to aspirate.
5. Withdraw the needle and apply light pressure to the injection site for several seconds with a gauze pad.
6. If there is any bleeding, cover the injection site with a bandage.
7. Put used syringe in a sharps container.

Intranasal (IN/NAS) Administration

Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV4)

1. FluMist® (LAIV4) is for intranasal administration only. Do not inject FluMist®.
2. Remove the rubber tip protector. Do not remove the dose-divider clip at the other end of the sprayer.
3. With the patient in an upright position, place the tip just inside the nostril to ensure LAIV is delivered into the nose. The patient should breathe normally.
4. With a single motion, depress the plunger as rapidly as possible until the dose-divider clip prevents you from going further. Remove from nostril.
5. Pinch and remove the dose-divider clip from the plunger.
6. Place the tip just inside the other nostril, and with a single motion, depress plunger as rapidly as possible to deliver the remaining vaccine.
7. Put applicator in a sharps container.

¹ Use professional judgment when determining needle size and injection site. For more information, see General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html.
² Use the opposite hand if you are left-handed.

For more information regarding flu and flu vaccination, refer to www.michigan.gov/flu, www.cdc.gov/vaccines, or www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Immunization

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