2018-19 Influenza Vaccine Screening for Persons who Report Egg Allergy

For the 2018-19 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
   - Use any licensed, recommended, and age-appropriate influenza vaccine (i.e., IIV, RIV4, or LAIV4)

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 licensed, recommended, and age-appropriate influenza vaccine (i.e., IIV, RIV4, LAIV4) that is otherwise appropriate for their health status
   - 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 reactions
   - 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.

Points to consider for the 2018-19 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 – quadrivalent (RIV4)
  - Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine – quadrivalent (LAIV4)

- 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 and LAIV indicate that severe allergic reactions in persons with egg allergy are unlikely
  - Use of LAIV4 for persons with egg allergy of any severity was approved by ACIP in February 2016
  - In discussing LAIV4 for egg-allergic persons in February 2016, ACIP heard data from three studies which evaluated the use of LAIV in egg-allergic children, in which no cases of anaphylaxis occurred

- With the exceptions of ccIIV4 and RIV4, currently available influenza vaccines are prepared by producing virus in embryonated eggs
  - ccIIV4 and RIV4 are produced using non-egg-based technologies, but only RIV4 is considered completely egg-free
  - RIV4 (Flublok® Quadrivalent) is 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 for maintaining an airway 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