Influenza Vaccination Recommendation
Health Care Provider Updates for 2018-19

What Providers Need to Know for the 2018-19 Influenza Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to recommend annual flu vaccination for everyone aged 6 months and older. After two seasons during which the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV4, FluMist®) not be used, in February 2018 ACIP recommended LAIV4 be an option for flu vaccination of persons for whom it is appropriate for the 2018-19 season (i.e., healthy, non-pregnant persons aged 2-49 years).

Key Facts
- During the 2016-17 and 2017-18 flu seasons, ACIP recommended LAIV4 not be used because of concerns about low effectiveness against A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses circulating in the U.S. during 2013-14 and 2015-16. However, based on new data, ACIP recommended LAIV4 for use in the 2018-19 season.
- The manufacturer changed the A(H1N1)pdm09 strain to A/Slovenia/2903/2015. New data suggest this new vaccine strain has improved replicative fitness over previous A(H1N1)pdm09-like vaccine strains in LAIV4.
- ACIP will continue to review data concerning the effectiveness of LAIV4 as they become available. This is an example of scientific research influencing policies to improve overall population health.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends children receive injectable (inactivated) flu vaccine for the 2018-19 season. For those children who would otherwise receive no flu vaccine for the 2018-19 season, AAP says LAIV4 can be given. AAP will publish its formal policy statement on flu prevention and treatment in September 2018.

Provider Information
- The Flu Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for IIV/RIV and LAIV have not changed since 8/7/15. To access them, go to www.michigan.gov/immunize → Health Care Professionals/Providers → VIS is at the top.
- LAIV4 is not available under the Vaccines for Children program for the 2018-19 season.
- Flu vaccine handouts for the 2018-19 season can be found at www.michigan.gov/flu → Current Flu Season Vaccination Materials for Health Care Professionals.