2018-19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Dosage for Children

Flu vaccine dosage is based on the person’s age and the flu vaccine product that is used.¹ A study in 2016 found that flu vaccine was most frequently involved in reported vaccine errors (20%) and was the most common type of vaccine implicated in age-related vaccine errors.² It is important to prevent flu vaccine administration errors to ensure children are adequately protected against flu.

For children aged 6-35 months, vaccine dosage is dependent on the flu vaccine product that is administered. There are multiple licensed flu vaccine products available for children aged 6-35 months: Afluria®, Afluria® Quadrivalent, FluLaval® Quadrivalent, Fluarix® Quadrivalent, and Fluzone® Quadrivalent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If You’re Using This Vaccine...¹</th>
<th>Dosage for Ages 6-35 Months</th>
<th>If 2 Doses are Needed...³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afluria (Seqirus)</td>
<td>0.25 mL</td>
<td>Give 0.25 mL today, 4 weeks later give 0.25 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FluLaval or Fluarix (GSK)</td>
<td>0.5 mL</td>
<td>Give 0.5 mL today, 4 weeks later give 0.5 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluzone (Sanofi Pasteur)</td>
<td>0.25 mL OR 0.5 mL</td>
<td>Complete the schedule with either 2 doses of 0.25 mL, 2 doses of 0.5 mL, or a combination of 0.25 mL and 0.5 mL doses; separate the 2 doses by 4 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refer to the Flu Vaccine Presentation Chart (see footnote 1) for available presentations of each of these vaccines.

For all persons aged 3 years and older, seasonal flu vaccine dosage is 0.5 mL regardless of the flu vaccine product being administered.

If 2 doses of 2018-19 flu vaccine are needed, the same vaccine product does not need to be used for both doses. Use any age-appropriate flu vaccine that is available that day, ensuring you use the correct dosage. Don’t miss an opportunity to vaccinate! Dosage is based on the child’s age on the day of vaccine administration. For example:

- If a child is aged 2 years and 11 months for dose 1, use the above table to determine dosage based on the flu vaccine product used.
- When the child returns 4 weeks later for dose 2 and is now aged 3 years, the dosage is 0.5 mL regardless of the flu vaccine product used.

Examples of how to correct pediatric flu vaccine dosage administration errors⁴,⁵:

1.) A 6-month-old was inadvertently given a 0.25 mL dose of FluLaval/Fluarix rather than the recommended 0.5 mL dose. What should I do?

If the error is recognized on the same clinic day, you can give a second 0.25 mL dose of the product that was used (FluLaval or Fluarix) to correct this vaccine error. If the error is not discovered until the following day, you should revaccinate with a full dose (0.25 mL of Afluria, 0.5 mL of FluLaval or Fluarix, or either 0.25 mL or 0.5 mL of Fluzone) as soon as possible. Revaccinating the day after the initial substandard dose was administered is safe and recommended if feasible.

2.) A 2-year-old was inadvertently given 0.5 mL from an Afluria multi-dose vial rather than the recommended 0.25 mL dose. What should I do?

This is more than an age-appropriate dose. The dose should be counted as valid. Notify the parent/guardian about the error. Ensure that office staff receive education to prevent vaccine administration errors. If a second dose is needed for this child, administer an age-appropriate dose (use the table above) 4 weeks later.

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3.) A 5-year-old was inadvertently given a 0.25 mL dose of Afluria rather than the recommended 0.5 mL dose. What should I do?

If the error is recognized on the same clinic day, you can give a second 0.25 mL dose of Afluria to correct this vaccine error. If the error is not discovered until the following day, you should revaccinate the 5-year-old with a 0.5 mL dose of an age-appropriate flu vaccine as soon as possible. Revaccinating the day after the initial substandard dose was administered is safe and recommended if feasible.

4.) A 1-year-old was inadvertently given a 0.5 mL dose of Fluzone. What should I do?

In January 2019, the Food and Drug Administration approved the licensure of Fluzone to include the use of a 0.5 mL dose for children aged 6 through 35 months. Now, either a 0.25 mL or a 0.5 mL dose of Fluzone can be given to children aged 6 through 35 months. If a child aged 6 through 35 months needs 2 doses of flu vaccine and you want to use Fluzone, the schedule can be completed as 2 doses of 0.25 mL, 2 doses of 0.5 mL, or any combination of 2 doses (either 0.25 mL or 0.5 mL). Ensure 2 doses of flu vaccine are separated by at least 4 weeks. All persons aged 3 years and older receiving Fluzone should still receive 0.5 mL.

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1 Refer to “2018-19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Presentation Chart” at www.michigan.gov/flu.
4 Report all vaccine administration errors to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): https://vaers.hhs.gov.
5 Contact your Local Health Department or MDHHS regarding the vaccine error, so the status of the error can be determined and marked accordingly in MCIR.