

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS WISHING TO RECEIVE FLU VACCINATION

Some people should not be vaccinated. Contraindications include severe allergy to eggs (vaccine influenza is grown in hens' eggs) or any other vaccine component (i.e., thimerosal, a mercury-containing organic compound widely used as a preservative in many biological and drug products, including certain vaccines and contact lens solutions) and having a moderate or severe illness with fever at time of vaccination (not including minor illness). Talk to a doctor before being vaccinated if you are allergic to eggs or other vaccine components, have ever had an allergic reaction to a flu shot or similar vaccine, or developed Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), a severe paralytic illness, within six weeks of getting a flu shot in the past. Latex sensitivity should be considered with flu vaccination and the items used to administer the vaccine. The vaccine is not approved for children under 4 years of age. Note that if your immune system is compromised by illness at the time of vaccination your body may not be able to respond as it should to build up antibodies for protection against the flu. The most common side effect of the flu shot is soreness at the injection site, which can last up to two days but does not usually affect an individual's ability to perform normal daily activities. Some people, usually children and others who have not been exposed to the influenza viruses before, may notice "mild" flu-like symptoms, such as fever, malaise, and muscle weakness after receiving a flu shot. Symptoms usually start 6 to 12 hours after vaccination and can last up to two days. Less common side effects include allergic reactions and Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS). Life-threatening allergic reactions, which usually occur immediately, are very rare but possible in individuals allergic to any vaccine component. The 1976 Swine flu vaccine was associated with an increased incidence of GBS. Since then, the risk is estimated to be very low at 1 to 2 cases per million vaccinated, which is much less than the risk of getting the flu.



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| Quest | tions | | | Υe | es | No | | |
| 1. | Have you had a flu s | hot before? | | | | 2,0 | | |
| 2. | Are you allergic to the | | ing products? | | | | | |
| 3. | Are you allergic to chicken, eggs or egg products? | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Have you ever had a reaction to flu or other vaccine? | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Is there a chance you are pregnant?* | | | | | | | |
| 6. | · | | | | | | | |
| 7. | Do you have a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome? | | | | | | | |
| 8. | 3. Are you allergic to rubber or latex products? | | | | | | | |
| 9. Are you interested in the shingles vaccine? | | | | | | | | |
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