

# ACIP Recommendations for 2015-16 Influenza Season

By AAFP

The CDC has released a [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)\(www.cdc.gov\)](http://www.cdc.gov) that recaps what its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended so far this year regarding seasonal influenza vaccine use.

The Aug. 7 report pulls from decisions made at the ACIP meetings held Feb. 26 and June 24-25 that addressed the antigenic composition of U.S. seasonal influenza vaccines, the vaccine products expected to be available for the 2015-16 flu season, an updated algorithm for determining the appropriate number of doses for children ages 6 months through 8 years, and recommendations for the use of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) and inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) for healthy children ages 2 through 8.

According to AAFP liaison to the ACIP Margot Savoy, M.D., M.P.H., told *AAFP News* that although many of the current influenza vaccination recommendations mirror last year's guidance, figuring out which children need two vaccine doses rather than one remains a common challenge for physicians.

A number of new or updated influenza vaccine products are available for the 2015-16 flu season. Savoy said a key takeaway from the *MMWR* report is to start recommending vaccination in your office early. "The goal is to vaccinate before the influenza season arrives in your community, so aim for October at the latest," Savoy said. "Continue to vaccinate throughout the season until activity ceases in the spring."

Noting that the ACIP recommends vaccinating everyone age 6 months or older who doesn't have a contraindication to the vaccine, Savoy emphasized that there is no ACIP-preferred influenza vaccine, so vaccination should not be delayed to wait on a particular formulation.

For full story: <http://www.aafp.org/news/health-of-the-public/20150821aciprecap.html>