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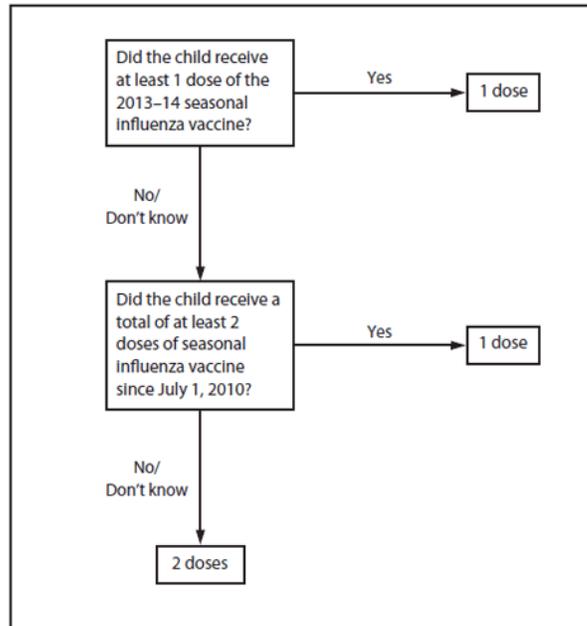
Maine Immunization Program
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To: Maine Immunization Providers
From: Maine Immunization Program
Subject: Influenza Recommendations 2014 – 2015
Date: August 27, 2014

For the 2014-15 Influenza season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the following:

1. All persons aged 6 months and older should receive influenza vaccine annually.
2. Influenza vaccine should not be delayed to procure a specific vaccine preparation if an appropriate one is already available.
3. When immediately available, LAIV should be used for healthy children aged 2 through 8 years who have no contraindications or precaution, however both LAIV and IIV have been demonstrated to be effective in children.
4. LAIV should **not** be used in the following populations:
 - Persons aged <2 years or >49 years;
 - Those with a contraindication listed in the package insert:
 1. Children aged 2 through 17 years who are receiving aspirin or aspirin-containing products;
 2. Persons who have experienced severe allergic reactions to the vaccine or any of its components, or to a previous dose of any influenza vaccine;
 3. Pregnant women;
 4. Immunosuppressed persons;
 5. Persons with a history of egg allergy;
 6. Children aged 2 through 4 years who have asthma or who have had a wheezing episode noted in the medical record within the past 12 months, or for whom parents report that a health care provider stated that they had wheezing or asthma within the last 12 months.
 7. Persons who have taken influenza antiviral medications within the previous 48 hours.
5. If LAIV is **not** immediately available, IIV should be used. Vaccination should **not** be delayed to procure LAIV. The age of 8 years is selected as the upper age limit for this recommendation based on demonstration of superior efficacy of LAIV (ages 2 to 6 years), and for programmatic consistency (8 years is the upper age limit for receipt of 2 doses of influenza vaccine in a previously unvaccinated child).

Influenza vaccine dosing algorithm for children aged 6 months through 8 years – Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2014-15 influenza season.



* For simplicity, this algorithm takes into consideration only doses of seasonal influenza vaccine received since July 1, 2010, to determine the number of doses needed for the 2014–15 season. As an alternative approach in settings where vaccination history from before July 1, 2010, is available, if a child aged 6 months through 8 years is known to have received either 1) at least 1 dose of 2013–14 seasonal influenza vaccine, or 2) at least two seasonal influenza vaccines during any previous season, and at least 1 dose of a 2009(H1N1)–containing vaccine (i.e., seasonal vaccine since 2010–11 or the monovalent 2009[H1N1] vaccine), then the child needs only 1 dose for 2014–15. Using this approach, children aged 6 months through 8 years need only 1 dose of vaccine for 2014–15 if they have received any of the following: 1) at least 1 dose of 2013–14 seasonal influenza vaccine; or 2) 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010; or 3) 2 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010, and 1 or more doses of monovalent 2009(H1N1) vaccine; or 4) 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine before July 1, 2010, and 1 or more doses of seasonal influenza vaccine since July 1, 2010. Children in this age group for whom one of these conditions is not met require 2 doses for 2014–15.

† Doses should be administered at least 4 weeks apart.

Thank you for your dedication to keep the citizens of Maine free of vaccine-preventable disease.

If you have any questions, please call the Maine Immunization Program at 1-800-867-4775 or email immunizeme.dhhs@maine.gov.