

Thomas O. Forslund, Director

Governor Matthew H. Mead

June 29, 2016

JA-2016-028

Dear Immunization Provider:

On June 22, 2016, CDC's Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) was presented with vaccine effectiveness (VE) data from 2015-2016, which included the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), or Flumist Quadrivalent, also known as the "nasal spray vaccine." After reviewing this and previous VE data, the ACIP voted in favor of an interim recommendation to not to use the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as Flumist, during the 2016-2017 flu season. They also passed a resolution to remove Flumist from the VFC Program formulary.

CDC presented data showing vaccine effectiveness for nasal spray vaccine among children 2 years through 17 years during 2015-2016 was 3 percent (with a 95 percent Confidence Interval (CI) of -49 percent to 37 percent). This estimate means no protective benefit could be measured. In comparison, flu shots IIV had a vaccine effectiveness estimate of 63 percent against any flu virus among children 2 years through 17 years with a 95 percent CI of 52 percent to 72 percent. (This estimate indicates flu shots provided measurable protection.) The disappointing LAIV VE data from 2015-2016 follows two previous seasons (2013-2014 and 2014-2015) showing poor and/or lower than expected vaccine effectiveness (VE) for LAIV.

We recommend that if you have pre-booked any doses of LAIV for private purchase that you reach out to the other vaccine manufacturers to discuss obtaining additional doses of other types of flu vaccine for the 2016-2017 flu season.

Flu vaccines continue to be the first and best way to prevent influenza. While how well flu vaccines work can vary from year to year, there are years of data showing that people who get vaccinated are, overall, better off than people who do not get vaccinated.

The Wyoming Immunization Program will be substituting Flumist® with other brands and presentations of flu vaccine to meet provider needs. Additional information and education will be distributed soon. Please do not hesitate to contact Kristy Westfall, VFC Coordinator at kristy.westfall@wyo.gov or 307-777-2413 with any questions about VFC influenza vaccine.

Sincerely,



Jude Alden, MBA, CPM
Immunization Unit Manager