



**Guidance for Purchasing Preservative Free Influenza Products  
2008-2009 Flu Season**

Since July 1, 2007, it is against Washington law to administer influenza vaccine containing more than trace amounts of thimerosal to pregnant women and children less than 3 years old. The law (RCW 70.95M.115\*) states that influenza vaccine may contain “up to 1.0 micrograms (µg or mcg) of mercury per 0.5 milliliter (mL) dose” that is administered to:

- Children younger than 3 years of age and
- Pregnant women

The law does not apply to persons who are 3 years of age and older or those who are not pregnant. All influenza vaccines licensed for persons 3 years of age and older and those who are not pregnant may be used to protect them from influenza disease.

Health care providers should ensure the appropriate formulation and amount of influenza vaccine is available for patients affected by the law during the influenza season.

**The following influenza vaccines meet the mercury limit of the law and are currently licensed for use for children younger than 3 years old:**

<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Mercury content per 0.5 mL dose*</u>
FluMist®	MedImmune	Single-dose sprayer (2 years of age and older)	0
Fluzone®	sanofi pasteur	0.25mL pediatric, single-dose pre-filled syringe (6 months to 3 years of age)	0

\*mcg: micrograms (µg)

**The following influenza vaccines meet the mercury limit of the law and may be given to pregnant women**

<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Mercury content per 0.5 mL dose*</u>
Afluria®	CSL Limited	0.5mL single-dose pre-filled syringe	0
Fluzone®	sanofi pasteur	0.5mL single-dose pre-filled syringe	0
Fluzone®	sanofi pasteur	0.5mL single-dose vial	0
Fluarix®	GlaxoSmithKline	0.5mL single-dose pre-filled syringe	≤1 mcg
Fluvirin®	Novartis Vaccine	0.5mL, single-dose pre-filled syringe	≤1 mcg

\*mcg: micrograms (µg)



The following influenza vaccines **DO NOT** meet the mercury limit of the law for children less than 3 years of age or pregnant women:

<u>Trade Name</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>Mercury content per 0.5 mL dose*</u>
Afluria®	CSL Limited	5 mL multi-dose vial containing ten doses	24.5 mcg
Flulaval®	ID Biomedical Corp	5 mL multi-dose vial containing ten doses	25 mcg
Fluvirin®	Novartis Vaccine	5 mL multi-dose vial containing ten doses	25 mcg
Fluzone®	sanofi pasteur	5 mL multi-dose vial containing ten doses	25 mcg

\*mcg: micrograms (µg)

### Additional Resources

For additional information about this topic, please contact your local health department, or the Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program CHILD Profile, (360) 236-3595.

For more information about mercury and vaccine safety, please visit:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/vaccine/vaccine-safety.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/cber/vaccine/thimerosal.htm>

<http://www.immunize.org/safety/thimerosal.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/>

\*RCW 70.95M.115 can be found at: <http://search.leg.wa.gov/pub/textsearch/>. This is an excerpt from the law: **RCW 70.95M.115** (1) Beginning July 1, 2007, a person who is known to be pregnant or who is under three years of age shall not be vaccinated with a mercury-containing vaccine or injected with a mercury-containing product that contains more than 0.5 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 milliliter dose. (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, an influenza vaccine may contain up to 1.0 micrograms of mercury per 0.5 milliliter dose.

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