

**WASHINGTON STATE VACCINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VAC)
RECOMMENDATION FOR USE OF INFLUENZA VACCINE**

As agreed upon and verified at the April 10, 2008 VAC meeting, the Committee recommends full acceptance of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice's (ACIP) provisional recommendations for use of Influenza vaccine to vaccinate children in Washington State.

ACIP provisional recommendations for the prevention and control of influenza (2008-2009 influenza season):

- Annual vaccination for all children aged 6 months--18 years is recommended. Annual vaccination of children aged 6 months—59 months should continue. If feasible, annual vaccination of all children aged 5 years--18 years should begin in 2008 when the vaccine for the 2008-2009 influenza season becomes available.
- Annual vaccination for all children aged 6 months--18 years should begin no later than during the 2009-2010 influenza season.
- Persons at higher risk of influenza complications because of underlying medical conditions, children aged 6 months--23 months, and persons aged >49 years should receive TIV. Either trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) or live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) should be used when vaccinating persons aged 2--49 years who do not have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza complications.
- Children aged 6 months—8 years should receive 2 doses of influenza vaccine (doses separated by ≥ 4 weeks) if they have not been vaccinated previously at any time with at least one dose of either LAIV or TIV.
- Clinicians and immunization program staff should screen for possible reactive airways diseases when considering use of LAIV for children aged 2--4 years, and should avoid use of this vaccine in children with asthma or a recent wheezing episode. The ACIP has previously provided recommendations on screening for possible reactive airways diseases in children aged 2—4 years (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5646a4.htm>).
- Recommendations for annual vaccination of persons in other age or risk groups were not changed, and can be found in Prevention and Control of Influenza: Recommendations of the ACIP, 2007. (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5606a1.htm>).
- The 2008–2009 trivalent vaccine virus strains are A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1)-like, A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2)-like, and B/Florida/4/2006-like antigens. All three strains are different from the 2007-2008 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine.
- The antiviral medications recommended for chemoprophylaxis or treatment of influenza (oseltamivir or zanamivir) have not changed for the 2008-2009 influenza season and can be found (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5606a1.htm>).