Standing Orders for Administering Influenza Vaccine to Children and Adults

**Purpose:** To reduce morbidity and mortality from influenza by vaccinating all children and adolescents who meet the criteria established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Policy:** Under these standing orders, eligible nurses and other healthcare professionals (e.g., pharmacists), where allowed by state law, may vaccinate patients who meet any of the criteria below.

**Procedure:**
1. Identify adults with no history of influenza vaccination for the current influenza season.
2. Screen all patients for contraindications and precautions to influenza vaccine:
   - **Contraindications:** a serious systemic or anaphylactic reaction to a prior dose of the vaccine or any of its components.
   - **Precautions:** moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever; history of Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks of a previous influenza vaccination; for LAIV only, close contact with an immunosuppressed person when the person requires protective isolation, receipt of influenza antivirals (e.g., amantadine, rimantadine, zanamivir, or oseltamivir) within the previous 48 hours or possible use within 14 days after vaccination.
3. Administer injectable IIV intramuscularly in the various locales for infants and toddlers lacking adequate deltoid mass for patients weighing less than 130 lbs (<60 kg): deltoid muscle; infants age 6 through 11 mos: 1”; 1 through 2 yrs: 1–1½”. Give 0.25 mL to children 6 to 23 mos and 0.5 mL to children 24 mos and older. Give 0.25 mL to children 6 to 23 mos and 0.5 mL to children 24 months and older.
4. Administer two doses of pediatric influenza vaccine:
   - First dose: at least 6 mos through 35 mos and 6 mos through 8 yrs.
   - Second dose: 4 wks after the first dose for children 6 mos through 8 yrs.
5. Document each patient’s vaccine administration information and follow up in the following places:
   - Medical chart:
   - Adult chart:
   - Immunization registry:
   - Patient record:
   - Medical director’s record card:
   - Immunization education:

**Download these influenza standing orders and use them “as is” or modify them to suit your work setting.**

Additional sets of standing orders for all routinely recommended vaccines are available at: www.immunize.org/standing-orders