QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO INFLUENZA VACCINES

Protect yourself. Protect others.

Name of vaccine	Fluenz Tetra LAIV	Quadrivalent influenza vaccine virus (split viron, inactivated) QIV	Fluad Tetra aQIV
Type of vaccine	Reassortant influenza virus (live attenuated) Active immunisation against four influenza virus strains (two A subtypes and two B types)	Influenza vaccine – surface antigen inactivated Active immunisation against four influenza virus strains (two A subtypes and two B types)	Influenza vaccine – surface antigen inactivated and adjuvanted Adjuvant MF59C.1 Active immunisation against four influenza virus strains (two A subtypes and two B types)
Licenced for	Aged 2 to 17 years	Aged 6 month and over	Aged from 65 years and over only
Target groups	2 to 17 year olds	In recommended "at-risk" as per Department of Health	65 years and older
Dose	0.2 ml (administered as 0.1 ml per nostril).	0.5 mls intramuscularly	0.5 mls intramuscularly
Number of doses required	One Two for at risk groups specific age groups**	One Two for at risk groups or specific age groups*	One
Interval	For those requiring 2 doses: 4 week interval between doses	For those requiring 2 doses: 4 week interval between doses	Not applicable (one dose only per flu season)
Supplied by National Cold Chain Services (NCCS)	Box of 10 nasal applicators Store in a refrigerator (+2°C to + 8°C). Do not freeze Discard if the vaccine has been frozen Keep the nasal applicator in the outer carton in order to protect from light	Box of 10 prefilled syringes with needles Store in a refrigerator (+2°C to + 8°C). Do not freeze Discard if the vaccine has been frozen Keep the pre filled syringe in the outer carton in order to protect from light	Box of 10 prefilled syringes with needles Store in a refrigerator (+2 °C to +8 °C). Do not freeze Discard if the vaccine has been frozen Keep the pre filled syringe in the outer carton in order to protect from light
Preparation	Ready to administer, no dilution required	Ready to administer, no dilution required	Ready to administer, no dilution required
Appearance	Nasal spray, suspension colourless to pale yellow Small white particles may be visible	Reach room temperature before use Gently shake before use After shaking gently, is a colourless opalescent liquid Visually inspect -should not be used if foreign particles in the suspension	Gently shake before use After shaking, the normal appearance milky-white suspension Visually inspect the contents of each pre-filled Should not be used if foreign particles are in the suspension
Shelf Life	Until expiry date	Until expiry date	Until expiry date
Ovalbumin content	≤0.024 micrograms per dose**	≤0.06 micrograms per dose***	≤1.0 micrograms per dose***

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Packaging			
			

*QIV - 2 doses 4 week apart for children aged 6 months and less than 9 years receiving the flu vaccine for the first time.
2 dose 4 weeks apart if post haematopoietic stem cell transplant or post solid organ transplant and receiving the vaccine post-transplant. Cancer patient who receive the vaccine while on chemotherapy and who complete their chemotherapy in the same season require two doses with the second dose at least 4 weeks after the completion of chemotherapy and at least four weeks after the first dose(regardless of influenza vaccine in the last season).

**LAIV - 2 dose 4 weeks apart for children aged 2 to 8 years who are clinically “at risk” and first time receiving any influenza vaccine. See the following for more information:

- https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/chapter11.pdf
- https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/flu-vaccination/algorithmflu.pdf

***Those with confirmed egg anaphylaxis or egg allergy can be given all of the above influenza vaccines in a primary care or school setting with the exception of those who have required admission to ICU for a previous severe anaphylaxis to egg.
Those requiring inactivated influenza vaccine who have had a previous ICU admission for a severe anaphylaxis to egg should be referred for specialist assessment with regard to vaccine administration in hospital.

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