

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 (mo.) (day) (yr.)

## Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vaccination

**For adult patients as well as parents of children to be vaccinated:** The following questions will help us determine if there is any reason we should not give you or your child inactivated injectable influenza vaccination today. If you answer “yes” to any question, it does not necessarily mean you (or your child) should not be vaccinated. It just means additional questions must be asked. If a question is not clear, please ask your healthcare provider to explain it.

	Yes	No	Don't Know
1. Is the person to be vaccinated sick today?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the person to be vaccinated have an allergy to eggs or to a component of the vaccine?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Has the person to be vaccinated ever had a serious reaction to influenza vaccine in the past?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Has the person to be vaccinated ever had Guillain-Barré syndrome?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Form completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Form reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Information for Health Professionals about the Screening Checklist for Contraindications to Inactivated Injectable Influenza Vaccination

Are you interested in knowing why we included a certain question on the screening checklist? If so, read the information below. If you want to find out even more, consult the sources listed at the bottom of this page.

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## **1. Is the person to be vaccinated sick today?**

There is no evidence that acute illness reduces vaccine efficacy or increases vaccine adverse events. People with an acute febrile illness usually should not be vaccinated until their symptoms have improved. Minor illnesses with or without fever do not contraindicate use of influenza vaccine. Do not withhold vaccination if a person is taking antibiotics.

## **2. Does the person to be vaccinated have an allergy to eggs or to a component of the vaccine?**

Allergic reactions to any vaccine component can occur. The majority of reactions probably are caused by residual egg protein. Although most current influenza vaccines contain only a limited quantity of egg protein, this protein can induce immediate allergic reactions among people who have severe egg allergy.

An egg-free recombinant hemagglutinin vaccine (RIV) may be used in people age 18 through 49 years with egg allergy of any severity who have no other contraindications. People who do not meet the age criteria for RIV who have experienced a serious systemic or anaphylactic reaction (e.g., hives, swelling of the lips or tongue, acute respiratory distress, or collapse) after eating eggs should consult a specialist for appropriate evaluation to help determine if vaccine should be administered. People who have documented immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated hypersensitivity to eggs, including those who have had occupational asthma or other allergic responses to egg protein, might also be at increased risk for allergic reactions to influenza vaccine. Protocols have been published for safely administering influenza vaccine to people with egg allergies (see source 3).

Some people who report allergy to egg might not be egg-allergic. If a person can eat lightly cooked eggs (e.g., scrambled eggs), they are unlikely to have an egg allergy. However, people who can tolerate egg in baked products (e.g., cake) might still have an egg allergy. If the person develops hives only after ingesting eggs, CDC recommends they receive either inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or, if age-eligible, RIV (not LAIV). If IIV is to be administered, CDC further recommends 1) the vaccine be administered by a healthcare provider familiar with the potential manifestations of egg allergy and 2) the vaccine recipient be observed for at least 30 minutes after receipt of the vaccine for signs of a reaction.

Fluzone (sanofi pasteur) contains gelatin as a stabilizer; therefore a history of anaphylactic reaction to gelatin is a contraindication. Some inactivated influenza vaccines contain thimerosal as a preservative. Most people who had sensitivity to thimerosal when it was used in contact lens solution do not have reactions to thi-

merosal when it is used in vaccines. Check the package insert at [www.immunize.org/packageinserts](http://www.immunize.org/packageinserts) for a list of the vaccine components (i.e., excipients and culture media) used in the production of the vaccine, or go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/excipient-table-2.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/excipient-table-2.pdf).

Some vaccines also contain latex in the prefilled syringe cap which may cause allergic reactions in latex sensitive people. Check the package inserts at [www.immunize.org/packageinserts](http://www.immunize.org/packageinserts) for information on which vaccines are affected, or go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/latex-table.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/latex-table.pdf).

## **3. Has the person to be vaccinated ever had a serious reaction to influenza vaccine in the past?**

Patients reporting a serious reaction to a previous dose of inactivated influenza vaccine should be asked to describe their symptoms. Immediate—presumably allergic—reactions are usually a contraindication to further vaccination against influenza.

Fever, malaise, myalgia, and other systemic symptoms most often affect people who are first-time vaccinees. These mild-to-moderate local reactions are not a contraindication to future vaccination. Also, red eyes or mild upper facial swelling following vaccination with inactivated injectable influenza vaccine is most likely a coincidental event and not related to the vaccine; these people can receive injectable vaccine without further evaluation.

## **4. Has the person to be vaccinated ever had Guillain-Barré syndrome?**

It is prudent to avoid vaccinating people who are not at high risk for severe influenza complications (see source 3) but who are known to have developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks after receiving a previous influenza vaccination. As an alternative, physicians might consider using influenza antiviral chemoprophylaxis for these people. Although data are limited, the established benefits of influenza vaccination for the majority of people who have a history of GBS, and who are at high risk for severe complications from influenza, justify yearly vaccination.

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### Sources:

1. CDC. *Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*, WL Atkinson et al., editors, at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/index.html).
2. CDC. *General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)* at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs).
3. CDC. Summary\* Recommendations: Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of ACIP—United States, 2013-14: at [www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/2013-summary-recommendations.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/acip/2013-summary-recommendations.htm).