

Philadelphia Immunization Program
SPECIAL DELIVERY

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

DONALD E. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH, Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity / Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH, Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD, Director, Division of Disease Control



September 6, 2011

- Influenza Vaccination Recommendations
- Special Recommendations for Children Aged 6 Months Through 8 Years

General Recommendations

On August 18, 2011, the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations on the "Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines" for the 2011-2012 season were issued electronically in a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR). The recommendation remains *unchanged* from the 2010-2011 influenza season. **Vaccination of all persons aged ≥ 6 months continues to be recommended.**

Annual vaccination is recommended even for those who received the vaccine for the previous season. There are two reasons for getting a yearly flu vaccine:

- 1) Flu viruses are constantly changing; flu vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against the most recent and most commonly circulating viruses.
- 2) A person's immune protection from vaccination declines over time and annual vaccination is needed for optimal protection.

Vaccine Doses for Children Aged 6 Months through 8 Years

Children aged 6 months through 8 years require 2 doses of influenza vaccine (4 weeks apart) during their first season of vaccination to optimize immune response.

- Children who received at least one dose of 2010–2011 seasonal vaccine will **require 1 dose** of the 2011–2012 seasonal vaccine.
- Children in this age group who **did not** receive at least one dose of the 2010-2011 vaccine (or if it is not certain whether the 2010-2011 was received) **require 2 doses** of the 2011-2012 seasonal vaccine. The second dose should be administered a minimum of 4 weeks after the first dose.

