

MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE OCTOBER 2016



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention
An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

Flu Vaccine for People with Egg Allergy

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has new flu recommendations for people with egg allergy.

Based on the new recommendations:



- People with egg allergies no longer need to be observed for an allergic reaction for 30 minutes after receiving a flu vaccine; and
- People with a history of severe allergic reaction to egg (i.e., any symptom other than hives) can now be vaccinated in a medical setting, under the supervision of a healthcare provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions.

Previously, it was recommended that all people with a history of egg allergy be observed for 30 minutes after vaccination and that those with a history of severe allergic reaction to egg be given a flu vaccine only by a physician with experience in managing severe allergic conditions.

ACIP has reviewed data about the amount of egg protein in flu vaccines as well as the frequency of allergic reactions (specifically anaphylaxis) in people who were given a flu shot. They found that the amounts of egg protein that are present in most vaccines are sufficiently low that they are unlikely to result in an allergic reaction.

Secondly, ACIP looked at instances of anaphylaxis in egg-allergic people and found these to be rare.

Flu vaccines do contain various components that may cause allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, and occasional cases of anaphylaxis in egg-allergic persons have been reported to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#) after administration of flu vaccine.

ACIP and CDC have revised the recommendations. CDC has provided an [algorithm](#) to guide clinicians through the updated recommendations for flu vaccine and egg-allergic patients this season.

- Patients who are able to eat lightly cooked egg (i.e., scrambled egg) without reaction are unlikely to be allergic to eggs and can be given any licensed, recommended flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health status;
- Patients with a history of egg allergy who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg also can be given any licensed flu vaccine (that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health); and
- Patients with a history of more serious reactions to eating eggs or egg-containing foods—those who have had symptoms such as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis, or who required epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention—also can receive any licensed flu vaccine that is otherwise appropriate for their age and health status, but the vaccine should be given in a medical setting and be supervised by a healthcare provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions.

Packing Data Loggers Properly

Data logger probes are very fragile and can break easily in the mail if not packaged properly. The probes are made out of thin glass and need to be packed with layers of bubble wrap or something that will fill the box and cushion the glass so it won't be jostled in transit. Below is an example of a data logger that was poorly packaged, as well as one that was packaged properly.



Data logger Help Line

Are you in need of technical assistance for your data logger? Please call the Control Solutions help line at 1(888) 311-0636.



Division of Disease Control Annual Infectious Disease Conference

This year's conference will offer engaging plenary sessions with breakout sessions highlighting emerging and existing issues, particularly as they impact the Maine medical community.

- November 16; 7:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
- Augusta Civic Center

Please see the following link for additional details about the conference, including the intended audience, continuing education available, agenda, and registration details.

<http://www.event.com/events/me-365-670-2016-division-of-disease-control-annual-infectious-disease-conference/event-summary-62bcb6d6b1604652ad0e9139a55f93a5.aspx>

**If you have any questions,
please contact the Maine Immunization Program at:
(207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775
www.ImmunizeME.org**

