

## Immunizations

1. Who should receive the influenza vaccine and what is the earliest age that it can be administered? **The injected influenza vaccine is inactivated and should be given to all children ages 6-23 months of age, people >65 years of age, residents of long term facilities and those with long term health problems such as asthma, metabolic disease, CAD, renal disease. Also patients with neuromuscular disorders that could cause breathing problems, patients with HIV, cancer, on steroids. Patients who are on long term ASA therapy 6 months to 18 years of age are at risk of developing Reye Syndrome if they get influenza. Pregnant women should be vaccinated during the flu season. Household contacts with infants ages 6 months to 23 months of age should also be vaccinated. The “Live” intranasal influenza vaccine is recommended for ages 5 -49 years of age in healthy individuals or healthy household contacts.**

**6 months of age is the earliest age to give the vaccine.**

2. What are the risks associated with the DTaP vaccine? **Mild** – fever, localized redness, swelling, tenderness, fussiness, vomiting. More common with 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> doses. **Moderate Reactions** – Seizure, non stop crying for >3 hours and fever >105 degrees. **Severe Reactions** – These are very rare but a serious allergic reaction, long term seizures, coma and permanent brain damage.
3. If your patient develops a serious reaction to a vaccine what should you do? **Report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form. You can do this online at [www.vaers.org](http://www.vaers.org) or call 1-800-822-7967.**
4. Which immunizations are contraindicated in someone who has had a severe, life threatening reaction to gelatin and/or neomycin? **MMR and Varicella. IPV should not be given to anyone with a known life threatening allergy to neomycin, streptomycin or polymyxin B. Anyone with a severe allergy to bakers yeast should not receive the Hepatitis B vaccine. Anyone with a severe allergy to eggs should not receive the influenza vaccine.**
5. Which immunizations are “live” vaccines? **MMR, Varicella and intranasal influenza vaccine.**