

Influenza Vaccination of People with a History of Egg Allergy

“Prevention and Control of Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the ACIP—U.S., 2012–13 Influenza Season.” *MMWR*, August 17, 2012/Vol. 61/No. 32, pages 613–618.

The entire article is available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6132.pdf, pages 613–618.

Severe allergic and anaphylactic reactions can occur in response to a number of influenza vaccine components, but such reactions are rare. All currently available influenza vaccines are prepared by means of inoculation of virus into chicken eggs. The use of influenza vaccines for persons with a history of egg allergy has been reviewed recently by ACIP (16). For the 2011–12 influenza season, ACIP recommended that persons with egg allergy who report only hives after egg exposure should receive TIV, with several additional safety measures, as described in this document. Recent examination of VAERS data indicated no disproportionate reporting of allergy or anaphylaxis after influenza vaccination during the 2011–12 season (21). For the 2012–13 influenza season, ACIP recommends the following:

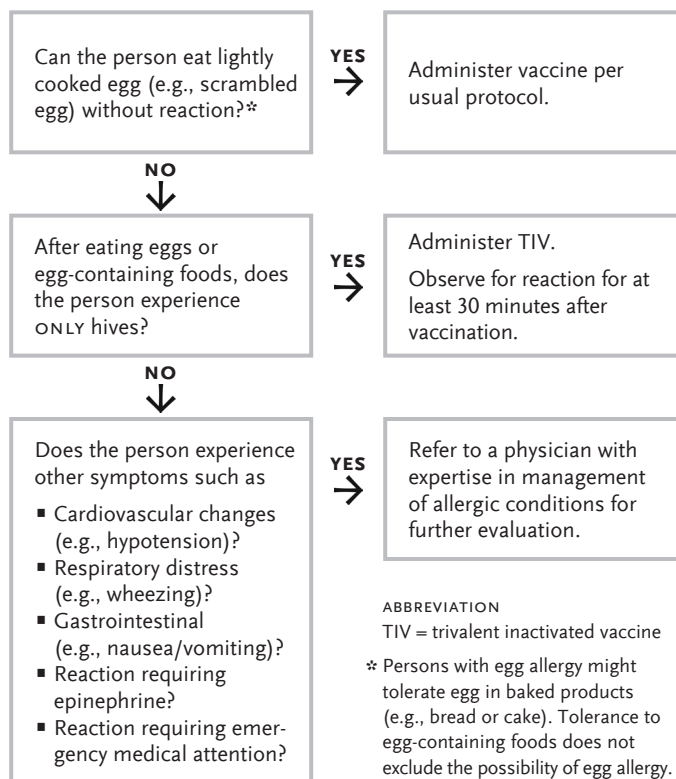
1. Persons with a history of egg allergy who have experienced only hives after exposure to egg should receive influenza vaccine, with the following additional safety measures (Figure 2):
 - a) Because studies published to date involved use of TIV, TIV rather than LAIV should be used (22);
 - b) Vaccine should be administered by a health-care provider who is familiar with the potential manifestations of egg allergy; and
 - c) Vaccine recipients should be observed for at least 30 minutes for signs of a reaction after administration of each vaccine dose (22).

Other measures, such as dividing and administering the vaccine by a two-step approach and skin testing with vaccine, are not necessary (22).
2. Persons who report having had reactions to egg involving such symptoms as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis; or who required epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention, particularly those that occurred immediately or within a short time (minutes to hours) after egg exposure, are more likely to have a serious systemic or anaphylactic reaction upon reexposure to egg proteins. Before receipt of vaccine, such persons should be referred to a physician with expertise in the management of allergic conditions for further risk assessment (Figure 2).
3. All vaccines should be administered in settings in which personnel and equipment for rapid recognition and treatment of anaphylaxis are available. ACIP recommends that all vaccination providers should be familiar with the office emergency plan (11).

REFERENCES

- NOTE:** Reference numbers on this sheet are taken from the complete article found at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6132.pdf, pages 613–618.
11. CDC. General recommendations on immunization: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR* 2011;60(No. RR-2).
 16. CDC. Prevention and control of influenza with vaccines: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2011. *MMWR* 2011;60:1128–32.
 21. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Update on influenza vaccine safety monitoring.

FIGURE 2
Recommendations regarding influenza vaccination for persons who report allergy to eggs – ACIP, United States, 2012–13 influenza season



4. Some persons who report allergy to egg might not be egg-allergic. Those who are able to eat lightly cooked egg (e.g., scrambled egg) without reaction are unlikely to be allergic. Egg-allergic persons might tolerate egg in baked products (e.g., bread or cake). Tolerance to egg-containing foods does not exclude the possibility of egg allergy (23). Egg allergy can be confirmed by a consistent medical history of adverse reactions to eggs and egg-containing foods, plus skin and/or blood testing for immunoglobulin E antibodies to egg proteins.
5. A previous severe allergic reaction to influenza vaccine, regardless of the component suspected to be responsible for the reaction, is a contraindication to future receipt of the vaccine.

- itoring. Presented at the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices meeting, Atlanta, GA; June 2012. Available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip/downloads/mtg-slides-jun12/03-influenza-shimabukuro.pdf. Accessed August 10, 2012.
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 23. Erlewyn-Lajeunesse M, Brathwaite N, Lucas JS, Warner JO. Recommendations for the administration of influenza vaccine in children allergic to egg. *BMJ* 2009;339:912–5.

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