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More On Influenza Immunization 1979 - 1980

There continues to be some confusion regarding this year's (1979-80) influenza immunization recommendations. This bulletin will attempt to clarify these problems.

Below are reproduced last year's (1978-79) and this year's (1979-80) influenza immunization schedules:

Vaccine Formulation	Product Type	Age	Dose (ml)	Number Doses
Adult <sup>1</sup>	Whole virus or split virus	26 yr.	0.5	1
Youth <sup>2</sup>	Split virus	13-25 yr.	0.5	2 <sup>3</sup>
	Split virus	3-12 yr.	0.25	2 <sub>3</sub>
	Split virus	6 mo.- 35 mo.	0.15	2 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Contains 7 micrograms each of A/USSR/77, A/Texas/77, B/Hong Kong/72 hemagglutinin antigens.  
<sup>2</sup>Contains 20 micrograms of A/USSR/77 and 7 micrograms each of A/Texas/77 and B/Hong Kong/72 hemagglutinin antigens.  
<sup>3</sup>Four or more weeks between doses.

Age Group	Product	Dosage (ml)	Number Doses
27 yrs & older	whole virion (whole virus) or subvirion (split virus)	0.5	1
13-26 yrs	whole virion (whole virus) or subvirion (split virus)	0.5	2**
3-12 yrs	Subvirion (split virus)	0.5	2**
6-35 mos***	Subvirion (split virus)	0.5	2**

\*Contains 7 µg each of A/Brazil/78, A/Texas/77, B/Hong Kong/72 hemagglutinin antigens in each 0.5 ml.  
\*\*4 weeks of more between doses; both doses essential for good protection, unless the individual received at least 1 dose of 1978-79 vaccine.  
\*\*\*Based on limited data. Since the likelihood of febrile convulsions is greater in this age group, special care should be taken in weighing relative risks and benefits.

Several points need to be emphasized and commented upon.

- Both last year's vaccine and this year's vaccine are produced as whole virus and split virus (subvirion) products. To reduce confusion on this the State Division of Public Health purchased only split virus vaccine for 1978-79 and 1979-80. All state purchased vaccine should be split virus vaccine.
- The 1978-79 vaccine had two formulations - youth and adult. As can be seen by reading subscripts 1 and 2 for the 1978-79 recommendations the component of each are alike except that the youth formulation has more (20 micrograms) of A/USSR/77 antigen than the adult formulation (7 micrograms). The youth formulation was "stronger" than the adult. Because of production problems very little youth formulation became available and we recommended that **all** individuals last year be immunized with the adult formulation, split virus vaccine. This caused no added risk to children but probably produced slightly fewer sero-conversions.
- The 1979-80 vaccine has only a single formulation which is virtually identical with the 1978-79 adult formulation. The sole difference being that the A/Brazil/78 antigen replaces A/USSR/77. This change is not of major importance and for that reason **the 1978-79 vaccine can be given this year if it is not outdated.**
- The 1979-80 recommendations also indicate (second footnote) that for individuals less than 27 doses of vaccine are required unless at least 1 dose of vaccine was received last year. If one dose was received, then **only a single dose** is required this year.
- Remember, there are specific indications for the vaccine; it is not recommended for everyone.
- More detailed information about the current vaccine can be found in the Bulletin Number 11, for the week ending June 8, 1979.