

## VACCINOLOGY II

### INFLUENZA VACCINES – INDIAN CONTEXT

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**Abstract:** *Influenza is a single stranded RNA virus belonging to orthomyxovirus family. Influenza virus is classified into subgroups A,B,C and D. Influenza A and influenza B viruses cause respiratory illness leading to significant mortality and morbidity in children and adults. Influenza can cause epidemics and pandemics due to antigenic shift in the genetic structure of viruses. Influenza B is also capable of causing serious disease in children. Influenza illness can be prevented by hand hygiene, cough etiquette, safe social distancing and yearly vaccination with influenza vaccine. Indian Academy of Pediatrics Advisory Committee on Vaccines and Immunization Practices has recommended yearly quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccination for routine immunization for children above 6 months of age through 5 years to prevent influenza in children. Live attenuated vaccine can be given intranasally for the age group above 2 years through 49 years. In the year 2020 Indian Academy of Pediatrics Advisory Committee on Vaccines and Immunization Practices has recommended a uniform dose of 0.5ml of inactivated influenza vaccine for all age groups above 6 months.*

**Keywords:** *Influenza virus, Inactivated vaccine, Live attenuated vaccine, Quadrivalent, Trivalent, Children.*

### Points to Remember

- *Immunisation against influenza may play an important role in reducing the morbidity and mortality in children and adults. ACVIP IAP recommended influenza vaccine for all children from 6 months of age to 5 years as a routine vaccine yearly*
- *Influenza A and Influenza B cause mild to severe respiratory illness in children and adults leading to significant morbidity and mortality.*
- *Quadrivalent flu vaccine is recommended routinely for children from the age of 6 months through 5 years of age.*
- *Uniform dose of 0.5 ml intramuscular quadrivalent influenza vaccine is recommended for all age groups.*
- *Influenza vaccine is a priority vaccine during COVID-19 pandemic.*

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