

# MAINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE JANUARY 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

## Have Patients With Asthma? Give Them a Flu Shot

Influenza, or 'the flu' can be more serious for people with asthma. While they are not more likely to get the flu, symptoms can be far more serious even if their asthma is mild and well-controlled. This is because people with asthma have swollen and sensitive airways, and the flu can cause further inflammation of the airways and lungs.

Influenza infection can trigger asthma attacks and worsen asthma symptoms. It can also lead to pneumonia and other acute respiratory diseases.



Asthma is the most common medical condition among children hospitalized with the flu. It is also one of the more common medical conditions among hospitalized adults. In fact, adults and children with asthma are more likely to develop pneumonia after being sick with the flu than people who do not have asthma. Peak flu season in the United States runs from December through February, and getting a flu shot is one way a person with asthma can stay healthy during the flu season.

**Everyone with asthma who is six months and older should get flu vaccine:**

To find out which flu vaccine is right for your patients visit the [cdc.gov/flu/asthma](http://cdc.gov/flu/asthma)

**Encourage patients with asthma to take every day preventive actions to stop the spread of the flu:**

- Stay home when sick, except to get medical care
- Stay away from other people who are sick
- Cover the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw the tissue away
- Cough or sneeze into the elbow or shoulder
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill

### **Update written Asthma Action**

**Plans and ensure patients understand it**

The U.S. CDC recommends that people with asthma not use zanamivir (Relenza®), an antiviral drug, because there is a risk it may cause wheezing in people that already have asthma or other lung problems.

## January is Cervical Health Awareness Month

Every year, 4,000 women die from cervical cancer in the U.S. — even with screening and treatment. Many more women undergo invasive testing and treatment for cervical cancers and precancers that can have lasting effects.

Help spread the word that HPV vaccination is **cancer prevention**. For more information and resources, please visit the link below.

<http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/hcp/index.html>

## Guidance for Vaccinating Children during the 2015-16 Pentacel® Manufacturing Delay

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/pentacel-delay.pdf>

### Case Study: James

- ◆ Seven months old, no known medical problems, new to your practice
- ◆ In the office today (January) for well child visit and routine vaccinations
- ◆ Your office stocks:
  - DTaP
  - IPV
  - DTaP-IPV-HepB
  - PCV13
  - Rotarix
  - Hib
  - Flu

Immunization history available in ImmPact includes:

- Birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine
- Seven weeks of age
- Pentacel (DTaP-IPV/Hib)
- PCV13
- Rotateq (RV5)

Question #1:

- ◆ Your office does not have any Pentacel in stock due to the current vaccine shortage. Can James receive Pediarix today?
- A. Yes  
B. No

Question #2

- ◆ You have DTaP-IPV (Kinrix) in your vaccine inventory. Can you use it for the DTaP and IPV dose that James need?
- A. Yes  
B. No

## MIP Satisfaction Survey

If you have not filled out the MIP Satisfaction Survey yet, we'd love to hear from you. Please take a moment to visit the link below to let us know how we're doing.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MIPSatisfactionSurvey>

We thank you in advance for your feedback.



Answers : Question #1—YES Question #2—NO (Kinrix is only licensed for children four through six years old, as the fifth dose of DTaP and the fourth dose of Polio.)

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

