

## NASAL SPRAY FLU VACCINE (FLUMIST) RECEIVES RECOMMENDATION FOR 2018-19

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently voted to recommend the inclusion of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) nasal spray as one option for flu vaccine in next year's (2018-19) flu season.

The ACIP had recommended against the use of LAIV for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 (current) flu seasons because the vaccine's H1N1 component wasn't protecting people against that influenza strain. For the 2018-19 product, the manufacturer of LAIV, MedImmune/AstraZeneca, has replaced the H1N1 component that seemed to be ineffective during previous flu seasons.

The new recommendation does not give preference to LAIV over other flu vaccine options. The ACIP recommended physicians administer any licensed, age-appropriate influenza vaccine, including LAIV, inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) and recombinant influenza vaccine.

Effectiveness data for the new formulation are not yet available. The product is in use this year outside the U.S. and effectiveness will be reported in the fall of 2018.

The ACIP voted to include this recommendation for the Vaccines for Children program. However, due to contractual requirements, this vote came too late for states to place LAIV orders through CDC for the 2018-19 flu vaccination season.

*Only injectable IIV will be available for Vermont VFC practices beginning in September. If the LAIV recommendation remains in place for the following year (2019-2020) it should once again be available to Vermont VFC practices.*