

Influenza

Immunization Fact Sheet

Why have the immunization?

Influenza, commonly known as the “FLU” is an infectious disease caused by an influenza virus A and B. It spreads quickly and easily from person to person and occurs each year in the late fall and winter months

The vaccine provides a decreased risk for contracting influenza infection and complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections and ear infections.

Who should not get the vaccine?



If you have any allergies to the components of the vaccine.

Or

Had an anaphylactic reaction to a prior dose of the vaccine

Or

High fever or serious infection, worse than a cold.

Or

History of severe allergic reaction to egg protein

Or

Acute Neurological disorders with a prior dose ***refer to product monograph***

What are the Side Effects?

Common:

Pain and redness at the injection site, tiredness, headache, and muscle pain. Children might also notice decreased appetite and irritability.

Uncommon or Rare: Severe allergic reactions to the flu shots are very rare. A very rare but possible side effect of influenza vaccination is Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS). (The body's immune system attacks nerves- often happens after infectious illness or stomach flu), GBS causes weakness and abnormal sensations. Other uncommon side effects include enlarged lymph node(s) and upper respiratory tract infection.

What to do if you experience uncommon or rare side effects?

Please notify your health care provider if experiencing unusual side effects or if anaphylaxis is suspected, proceed to the nearest emergency department.

Want more information?

www.immunize.ca

or

refer to vaccine product monograph