

Advice on administering influenza vaccine to children



- **FLUVAX® (bioCSL) must not be given to children less than 5 years of age. Only VAXIGRIP® or FLUARIX® can be used for this age group.**
- **There is also a strong preference for using VAXIGRIP® or FLUARIX® for children aged 5 years to less than 9 years of age.**
- **Advice about how to administer a paediatric dose of FLUARIX® or VAXIGRIP® to children is provided below.**

NSW Health will always supply an alternative brand of influenza vaccine with FLUVAX®. Please ensure you keep a supply of the alternative product and FLUVAX® clearly labelled in your fridge.

Procedure for the administration of a 0.25ml dose (i.e. half the 0.5ml dose) of FLUARIX® (GSK) or VAXIGRIP® (Sanofi Pasteur) for children aged 6 months to 35 months:

Both FLUARIX® and VAXIGRIP® are presented in 0.5ml prefilled syringes. A marking line on the pre-filled syringe indicates a volume of 0.25ml for administration to children 6 months to 35 months of age. Children 3 years and older should receive the full 0.5ml dose.



VAXIGRIP® SYRINGE



FLUARIX® SYRINGE

When using the 0.5ml syringe for administering a 0.25ml dose, push the plunger in line with the mark on the syringe so that half of the volume is eliminated. Administer the remaining 0.25ml of vaccine to the infant, using standard techniques.

Please note:

- **All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months to less than 5 years are now eligible for free seasonal influenza vaccine.**
- **Children less than 9 years of age receiving influenza vaccine for the first time require two doses, at least 4 weeks apart.**
- **Only use Vaxigrip® or Fluarix® vaccines for vaccination of children less than 5 years of age.**
- **Report all doses in children under 7 years of age to the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR).**