How to Administer Intramuscular and Intranasal Influenza Vaccines

Intramuscular injection (IM)

All injectable influenza vaccines

- 1 Use a needle long enough to reach deep into the muscle. Infants age 6 through 11 mos: 1"; 1 through 10 yrs: 1–1¼"; and children and adults 11 years and older: 1–1½".
- 2 With your non-dominant hand, bunch up the muscle.
- **3** With your dominant hand, insert the needle at a 90° angle to the skin with a quick thrust.
- **4** Push down on the plunger and inject the entire contents of the syringe. There is no need to aspirate.
- **5** Remove the needle and then apply pressure to the injection site with a dry cotton ball or gauze. Hold in place for several seconds.
- **6** If there is any bleeding, cover the injection site with a bandage.
- 7 Put the used needle and syringe in a sharps container.



Intranasal administration (NAS)

Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV)

- **1** FluMist (LAIV) is for intranasal administration only. Do not inject FluMist.
- 2 Remove rubber tip protector. Do not remove dose-divider clip at the other end of the sprayer.
- **3** With the patient in an upright position, place the tip just inside the nostril to ensure LAIV is delivered into the nose. The patient should breathe normally.



- 4 With a single motion, depress plunger as rapidly as possible until the dose-divider clip prevents you from going further.
- 5 Pinch and remove the dose-divider clip from the plunger.



- 6 Place the tip just inside the other nostril, and with a single motion, depress plunger as rapidly as possible to deliver the remaining vaccine.
- 7 Dispose of the applicator in a sharps container.





FOR PROFESSIONALS www.immunize.org / FOR THE PUBLIC www.vaccineinformation.org