

**SEASONAL INFLUENZA AND H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS:
PEDIATRIC PATIENTS WITH CANCER**

Seasonal Influenza and Novel H1N1 Vaccinations

- Administration of inactivated annual seasonal influenza vaccine and inactivated 2009 novel H1N1 monovalent vaccine is strongly recommended for all pediatric oncology patients **> 6 months of age**, as well as for family members, caregivers and hospital/clinic staff in contact with patients.
- Highest priority groups:
 - ◆ patients on active cancer treatment;
 - ◆ patients who have been treated for cancer within the past year
 - ◆ BMT (blood and marrow transplant) patients ≥4 months post-transplant and receiving immune suppressant treatment
 - ◆ health care providers
- Next highest priority groups for vaccination:
 - ◆ family members
 - ◆ caregivers

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine	
Age and Vaccination Status	Recommended Dosing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months to 8 years • first year of influenza vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 doses • The 2nd dose should be administered 4 or more weeks after the initial dose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months to 8 years • subsequent vaccination years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 dose • if only 1 dose was given in the first year, 2 doses are required in the <u>one</u> season immediately following
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 years and older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 dose

2009 Novel H1N1 Influenza Vaccine	
Age	Recommended Dosing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months to < 3 years • 3 to 9 years <u>with chronic health problems</u> (e.g., cancer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two half-doses of adjuvanted vaccine, at least 21 days apart
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • healthy children 3 to 9 years, with <u>no chronic health problems</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one half dose of adjuvanted vaccine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years and older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 full dose of adjuvanted vaccine

- **Ideal** timing for patients on active cancer treatment is at least 10-14 days before the start of any potentially immune suppressing cancer treatment. Where not possible, vaccination *between* chemotherapy cycles is preferable to not vaccinating. Low platelets are not an absolute contraindication.

Vaccination can occur at any time for pediatric oncology patients, based on individual clinical judgment incorporating a patient's overall clinical situation.

These recommendations were developed by AHS Cancer Care, in collaboration with key provincial Oncology experts.