

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - live attenuated influenza vaccine alert

Summary of change: Amerigroup Kansas, Inc. is notifying the provider network that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an alert to not use the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the “nasal spray” flu vaccine, for anyone ages 6 months and older.

★ **What this means to you:** The CDC is alerting health care providers to avoid using the LAIV during the 2016-2017 flu season. The CDC recommends using only the inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or the recombinant influenza vaccine.

Why is this change necessary?

The decision is based on vaccine effectiveness data presented to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for LAIV. The 2015-2016 flu season data indicated that the LAIV offered **no significant protection** against the predominant flu virus (influenza A[H1N1]pdm09) among study participants 2 to 17 years of age.

What is the impact of this change?

The LAIV accounts for about 8 percent of the total flu vaccine supply in the United States. The CDC believes that there will be enough IIV to meet demand, but it will require the entire medical community to work together and remain flexible in preference of vaccine presentation. The CDC is developing a policy on vaccine distribution that will be focused on ensuring vaccines are available for everyone.

Claims for the LAIV will be denied.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions, please contact your local Provider Relations representative or call our Provider Services team at 1-800-454-3730.