

IMPORTANT NEWS CONCERNING

FLUVIRIN® INFLUENZA VIRUS VACCINE MULTIDOSE VIALS

Fluvirin®
Influenza Virus Vaccine
(Purified Surface Antigen Vaccine, Trivalent, Types A and B)

Our goal at Novartis Vaccines is to help protect as many patients as possible from influenza. One way we help achieve this is by providing FLUVIRIN® vaccine in convenient multidose vials.

It is critical that appropriately sized syringes and needles be used to ensure that all ten 0.5 mL doses are obtained from each multidose vial

- n When a 0.5 mL dose of FLUVIRIN® vaccine is withdrawn from a multidose vial, some vaccine is lost in the dead space of the syringe and needle; multidose vials are overfilled to compensate for this loss
- n However, when syringes larger than 0.5 to 1.0 mL (such as 3 mL syringes) are used, the cumulative loss may exceed even the overfilled volume of vaccine in the vial
- n As a result, less than the full ten doses of vaccine may be obtained from the vial

To maximize the number of doses in a multidose vial:

- n **Use a 0.5 mL or 1 mL syringe** for administration of FLUVIRIN® vaccine; **do not use 3 mL syringes**
- n **Use non-reusable, auto-disposable syringes;** tuberculin and insulin syringes should not be used
- n **Use syringe-fixed needle combinations designed for immunizations;** their auto-disable features, minimal dead space, and proper needle length are ideal for administering FLUVIRIN® vaccine

Important safety information

The most common side effect of vaccination with FLUVIRIN® Influenza Virus Vaccine is soreness at the injection site. Less common side effects include fever, malaise, myalgia, and allergic reactions. FLUVIRIN® vaccine should not be administered to anyone with a history of hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine, including eggs, egg products, or thimerosal. As is the case with most drugs and vaccines, there is a chance that serious allergic reaction, serious illness, or even death could occur as a result of vaccination with FLUVIRIN® vaccine. Generally, persons should not be vaccinated during an acute febrile illness. Vaccination should be delayed in persons with an active, unstable neurological disorder, but should be considered when the disorder has been stabilized. The occurrence of any neurological symptoms or signs following administration of any vaccine is a contraindication to further use. FLUVIRIN® vaccine is not indicated for use in children under the age of 4 years. Persons should consult with their healthcare providers if they are pregnant and/or are taking other medications. FLUVIRIN® vaccine may not protect 100% of individuals who are susceptible to influenza. Before administering FLUVIRIN® vaccine, please see full Prescribing Information.

Full FLUVIRIN® Prescribing Information is available at www.novartis-vaccines.com.



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