

Influenza Vaccine Comparison Chart: 2024 - 2025

Vaccine	Standard Dose	Fluzone® High Dose	Fluad® Trivalent
Classification	Trivalent	Trivalent	Trivalent
Protection	2 influenza A viruses 1 influenza B viruses	2 influenza A viruses 1 influenza B viruses Contains four times the amount of antigen (prompts the body to make antibodies) contained in regular flu shots, to create a stronger immune response.	2 influenza A viruses 1 influenza B viruses Pairs the regular vaccine with an adjuvant (immune stimulant), to cause the immune system to have a stronger immune response.
Indication	6 months and above	65 years and above Solid Organ Transplant Recipients	65 years and above Solid Organ Transplant Recipients
Dose	0.5 mL	0.5 mL	0.5 mL
Flu Season	In the US, flu activity peaks in January and February, but can begin as early as October and continue as late as May. Vaccines take 2 weeks to build immunity in the body.		
Safety	Flu vaccines are safe. Vaccine viruses used are inactivated (“killed”) or weakened and CANNOT cause influenza.		
Effectiveness	Patients are 60% less likely to need treatment for flu after getting vaccinated. Influenza vaccination also reduces other illnesses, antibiotic use, time off work, hospitalization, and deaths		
Side Effects	Soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was administered; fever (low grade); aches	Soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot was administered; fever (low grade); aches; headache; potential for increased local side effects	Soreness and pain where the shot was administered; headache; aches; feeling tired

NOTE: The medical and public health experts of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) have recommended that adults aged ≥65 years and those 18-64 years with history of solid organ transplantation, receiving immunosuppression, preferentially receive Fluzone® High Dose or Fluad®. If neither of these vaccines are available at an opportunity for vaccine administration, then any other age-appropriate influenza vaccine should be used. They advise getting any type of flu vaccination as the first and most important step in protecting against flu.