

Needle Length and Injection Site for Inactivated Influenza Vaccine

Inactivated influenza vaccine must be administered by the intramuscular route only

Birth through 18 years of age		
Age	Needle Length	Injection Site
Infant 6 – 12 months	1" (25 mm)	Anterolateral thigh
Toddler 1 - 2 years	1" - 1 ¼" (25-32 mm) 5/8"* - 1" (16-25 mm)	Anterolateral thigh ⁺ Deltoid muscle of the arm
Child/adolescent 3 through 18 years	5/8"* - 1" (16-25 mm) 1" - 1 ¼" (25-32 mm)	Deltoid muscle of the arm ⁺ Anterolateral thigh
19 years of age and older		
Sex/weight	Needle Length	Injection Site
Male and female less than 130 lbs (60 kg)	1" (25 mm)	Deltoid muscle of the arm
Female 130 - 200 lbs (60-90 kg)	1" - 1½" (25-38 mm)	Deltoid muscle of the arm
Male 130 – 260 lbs (60-118 kg)	1½" (38 mm)	Deltoid muscle of the arm
Female more than 200 lbs (90 kg)	1½" (38 mm)	Deltoid muscle of the arm
Male more than 260 lbs (118 kg)	1½" (38 mm)	Deltoid muscle of the arm

*A 5/8" needle may be used only if the skin is stretched tight, the subcutaneous tissue is not bunched, and the injection is made at a 90-degree angle.

⁺Preferred site.

Adapted from *General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. MMWR* 2006;55(RR-15). September 2009.