

# VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

**Question:** A 14-month old child received an influenza vaccine in May 2020 (at age 9 months). How many doses of influenza vaccine, if any, does this child need now?

- a) 0 doses – already received flu vaccine this year
- b) 1 dose now
- c) 2 doses – one now and one 4 weeks after the first dose
- d) Unable to determine – would depend on the type of vaccine child received in May 2020.

**Answer:** c) 2 doses – one now and one 4 weeks after the first dose

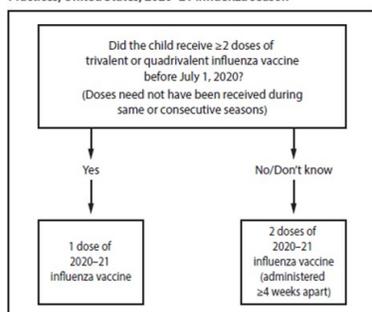
Children aged 6 months through 8 years require 2 doses of influenza vaccine administered a minimum of 4 weeks apart during their first season of vaccination for optimal protection. Determination of the number of doses needed is based on:

- 1) the child’s age at the time of the first dose of 2020–21 influenza vaccine and
- 2) the number of doses of influenza vaccine received in previous influenza seasons

For those aged 6 months through 8 years, the number of doses of influenza vaccine needed for the 2020–21 influenza season is determined as follows:

- Those who have previously received  $\geq 2$  total doses of trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccine  $\geq 4$  weeks apart before July 1, 2020, require only 1 dose for the 2020–21 season. The 2 previous doses of influenza vaccine do not need to have been administered in the same season or consecutive seasons.
- Those who have not previously received  $\geq 2$  doses of trivalent or quadrivalent influenza vaccine  $\geq 4$  weeks apart before July 1, 2020, or whose previous influenza vaccination history is unknown, require 2 doses for the 2020–21 season. The interval between the 2 doses should be  $\geq 4$  weeks. Two doses are recommended even if the child turns age 9 years between receipt of dose 1 and dose 2.

FIGURE. Influenza vaccine dosing algorithm for children aged 6 months through 8 years\* — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2020–21 influenza season



\* For children aged 8 years who require 2 doses of vaccine, both doses should be administered even if the child turns age 9 years between receipt of dose 1 and dose 2.

Source: Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2020–21 Influenza Season

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/rr/pdfs/rr6908a1-H.pdf>

