

**LATEST INFORMATION REGARDING FLU MIST**

CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted back in June 2016, that live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), also known as the “nasal spray” flu vaccine, should **not** be used during the 2016-2017 flu season. ACIP continues to recommend annual flu vaccination, with either the inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) or recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV), **for everyone 6 months and older.**

ACIP is a panel of immunization experts that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The updated guidance states the vaccine should not be used in any setting, based on CDC vaccine effectiveness data from the last three influenza seasons in the US, which indicated *FluMist* *Quadrivalent* did not demonstrate statistically significant effectiveness in children 2-17 years of age.

The US CDC effectiveness data for 2015-2016 season contrast with studies by AstraZeneca as well as preliminary independent findings by public health authorities in other countries1 2. These findings demonstrate *FluMist* *Quadrivalent* was 46-58% effective overall against the circulating influenza strains during the 2015-2016 season. As influenza vaccine effectiveness varies from season to season, it is evaluated in annual observational studies. The CDC states that when there is a good match between the strains in the vaccine and those that circulate during the influenza season, vaccines are typically 50-60% effective.3 AstraZeneca is working with the CDC to better understand its data to help ensure eligible patients continue to receive the vaccine in future seasons in the US.

In light of these recommendations, Passport Health will be unable to offer Flu Mist at our onsite flu clinics this year.

Please note that Passport Health uses very high quality sharp needles for the most comfortable injection experience possible. Should you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to email me at the following address: Michele@passporthealthlouisiana.com or call us at 504-456-8515.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

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