

AAP: Nasal spray vaccine against flu acceptable in 2019 to 2020

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(HealthDay)—The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) plans to

advise families to vaccinate children against influenza with either the flu shot or nasal spray vaccine during the 2019 to 2020 flu season, in contrast to the academy's preference for the injected vaccine over the nasal spray during the previous two flu seasons, the AAP announced today.

During the 2016 to 2017 and 2017 to 2018 flu seasons, the AAP recommended using the injected vaccine over the [nasal spray](#) with the exception of children who refuse the shot. This recommendation was based on previous questions about the nasal spray's effectiveness and because the spray did not work as well against the influenza A/H1N1 strain in the 2013 to 2014 and 2015 to 2016 seasons. The AAP says that in the 2019 to 2020 [flu season](#), it will support the use of any licensed [influenza vaccine](#), in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The AAP Board of Directors made the decision based on a review of the most recent data on the inactivated vaccine and the quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine. The decision was announced now to inform physicians who typically place orders for the vaccine at this time of year.

"All children 6 months and older should receive the flu vaccine, in whatever form their pediatrician recommends," Bonnie Maldonado, M.D., chair of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases, said in a statement. "Every year, we are never sure if the vaccine strains are going to be perfectly matched up with incoming flu strains, but based on the information that we have now, we believe the nasal spray is an acceptable option."

More information: [More Information](#)

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