

Changes in flu circulation means US likely to see vaccines move from quadrivalent to trivalent

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U.S. flu vaccines are likely to move from quadrivalent to trivalent due to a change in circulating influenza viruses, says a University of Michigan

researcher. Currently, all influenza vaccines in the United States are quadrivalent, meaning that they protect against four different flu viruses.

In a new paper [published](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, researchers detail the spread of influenza B/Yamagata virus, which has not been in [circulation](#) since early 2020; the regulatory discussions and recommendations on updating vaccines; and the manufacturing considerations for new vaccine formulations for the U.S. and abroad.

"The removal of B/Yamagata virus is logical as we do not want to include a virus in vaccine formulation that is no longer in circulation," said Arnold Monto, professor emeritus of epidemiology and global public health at the U-M School of Public Health.

"It also gives us the space to replace B/Yamagata virus with a component that will give improved protection against the circulating [influenza viruses](#). That will take additional studies to accomplish."

Monto has dedicated his career to researching the occurrence, prevention and control of respiratory infections. He also serves as a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee.

More information: Arnold S. Monto et al, The End of B/Yamagata Influenza Transmission—Transitioning from Quadrivalent Vaccines, *New England Journal of Medicine* (2024). [DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp2314801](#)

Provided by University of Michigan

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