

# Live attenuated flu vaccine not effective for children in 2015-16

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(HealthDay)—During the 2015 to 2016 season, influenza vaccines

reduced the risk of influenza illness, but the live attenuated vaccine was ineffective among children 2 to 17 years of age, according to a study published in the Aug. 10 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Michael L. Jackson, Ph.D., from the Group Health Research Institute in Seattle, and colleagues enrolled patients age 6 months of age or older who presented with [acute respiratory illness](#) at ambulatory care clinics. Vaccine effectiveness was estimated using a test-negative design.

The researchers found that 19 percent of the 6,879 eligible participants tested positive for [influenza virus](#), predominantly for A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza B (11 and 7 percent, respectively). The effectiveness of the influenza vaccine was 48 percent against any influenza illness (95 percent confidence interval [CI], 41 to 55 percent; P vaccine effectiveness, 5 percent; 95 percent CI, -47 to 39 percent; P = 0.80). Among children, vaccine effectiveness against A(H1N1)pdm09 was 63 percent for the inactivated vaccine (95 percent CI, 45 to 75 percent; P

"Influenza vaccines reduced the risk of influenza illness in 2015 to 2016," the authors write. "However, the live attenuated vaccine was found to be ineffective among children in a year with substantial inactivated [vaccine](#) effectiveness."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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