

FLU VACCINE: WHAT'S IN THE VIAL?



5 typical components of vaccines:

Antigens ●

Adjuvants ●

Stabilizers ●

Preservatives ●

Residual byproducts ●

ADJUVANTS

Like morning coffee helps us get a better start on the day, adjuvants help our immune system get a better start against the vaccine.

The only flu vaccine that contains an adjuvant is Fludax, which uses MF59.

No current flu vaccines contain aluminum.



STABILIZERS

Like buildings need fortifiers to remain stable over time, so do vaccines.

Gelatin is a stabilizer that causes concern for people with related allergies or those seeking to avoid pork products. The only flu vaccine that contains gelatin is FluMist.

ANTIGENS

The active ingredient of the vaccine to which we make an immune response

For flu vaccines, the antigen is either:

Whole virus

1. Dead virus (inactivated)
Examples: Afluria, Fluarix, FluLaval, Fluzone, Flucelvax
2. Live, weakened virus
Examples: FluMist

Part of the virus

1. Two proteins (hemagglutinin & neuraminidase)
Example: Fludax
2. One protein (hemagglutinin)
Example: Flublok



PRESERVATIVES

Like gates keep out those who shouldn't enter, preservatives keep pathogens out of vaccines. Thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative, has been removed from most flu vaccines. Exceptions are multi-dose vials of Afluria, Fluzone and Flucelvax; none of which are given to children younger than 4.

The amounts of egg protein left in some flu vaccines (Afluria, Fluarix, FluLaval, FluMist, & Fludax) are so minor that most people with egg allergies can still get the flu vaccine.

RESIDUAL BYPRODUCTS

Like a bit of the beach always finds its way home, a small amount of the ingredients used to make the vaccine always end up in the vial.



FLU VACCINE: WHAT'S NOT IN THE VIAL?

Fetal cells	Gluten	Microchips
Human DNA	Soy	COVID-19
Blood products	Natural rubber latex	

*Only one flu vaccine (FluMist) contains an ingredient of porcine origin (gelatin).

Find out more:



or
vaccine.chop.edu/parents
(Check "Parents PACK Newsletter"
November 2022 issue)