



KDCA

Korea Disease Control and
Prevention Agency

Updates on influenza vaccination and adverse reactions

26 October 2020

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Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) shared influenza immunization updates as of October 26, 2020. Approximately 9.68 million immunizations have been completed for those under the National Immunization Program (NIP). Approximately 5 million immunizations completed not under the NIP have also been registered in the system on a voluntary basis.

Current NIP Influenza Immunization Status (as of 0:00, October 26, 2020)

Group			Number of persons eligible under NIP	Number of immunizations (n, %)			Vaccines
				Free	Paid	Total	
6 months to 12 yrs	Two doses (Sept. 8 ¹⁾ ~)	1st	403,688	217,995 (54.0)	4,855 (1.2)	222,850 (55.2)	Private sector purchased
		2nd		87,442 (21.7)	2,923 (0.7)	90,365 (22.4)	
	One time immunization (Sept. 25~)		4,780,691	3,220,690 (67.4)	163,529 (3.4)	3,384,219 (70.8)	
Pregnant women (Sept.25~)			304,273	107,214 (35.2)	1,183 (0.4)	108,397 (35.6)	
13 to 18 yrs (Oct. 13~)			2,840,342	1,302,573 (45.9)	139,882 (4.9)	1,442,455 (50.8)	Provided by government
62 yrs and above	70 yrs and above (Oct.19~)		5,669,228	3,770,375 (66.5)	129,158 (2.3)	3,899,533 (68.8)	
	62-69 yrs (Oct.26~) ²⁾		4,983,534	326,832 (6.6)	201,985 (4.1)	528,817 (10.6)	
Total			18,981,756	9,033,121	643,515	9,676,636	

1) Started from September 8, and paused from September 22 to 24

2) Although ages 62-69 are eligible beginning October 26, free immunization was provided to some from October 19 in consideration of local situation

Reports of adverse events following influenza vaccination

- A total of 1,231 cases of adverse events following influenza vaccination have been reported this year (as of 0:00 26 October). Causality to vaccination has not been found.
- KDCA held a rapid response investigation meeting with the Vaccination Injury Investigation Group on October 25. The Vaccination Injury Investigation Group assessed the link between the additional 20 deaths and immunization.



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- There were no acute allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) among the 20 cases, and no other serious cases were found among those who have been vaccinated in the same medical institutions on the same days with same lot number vaccines, with only some mild adverse reactions (such as pain on the immunized spot, etc.). Based on the findings, the Investigation Group assessed that the possibility of abnormal vaccine or inappropriate vaccine administration is low.
- Epidemiological investigation and autopsies of individual cases showed (a) no findings of adverse reaction was reported among the deaths, (b) causes of deaths are highly likely to be due to underlying diseases (such as cardiovascular diseases, cerebrovascular diseases, diabetes, liver cirrhosis, arrhythmia, chronic pulmonary diseases, malignant tumors, etc.), and (c) presence of other obvious cause of death (aortic dissection, cerebral hemorrhage, pulmonary thromboembolism, etc.). On the basis of the above findings, all the 46 deaths reviewed so far are assessed to have very low causal link to vaccination. Retesting of vaccines or suspension of the National Immunization Program is not to be considered at this stage.
- A total of 7 companies and 37 lot numbers are related to the deaths reported so far. A total of 14 lot numbers have two or more deaths. Retesting or discontinuation of vaccines will be considered in the future if two or more severe adverse events (such as death) occur from the same lot number and the causality between the adverse event and immunization cannot be excluded.
- 46 of the 59 deaths reported so far have been assessed to have low causality with vaccination. For the remaining 13 deaths under investigation, another Injury Investigation Group meeting will be held as soon as the epidemiological investigation is completed.

Deaths following influenza immunization (as of 0:00, 26 October 2020)

Total	Sex		Age group			
	Male	Female	Under 60	60-69	70-79	80 and above
56(3)	32(1)	24(2)	5	2	25(1)	24(2)

Total	City							
	Seoul	Busan	Daegu	Incheon	Gwangju	Daejeon	Ulsan	Sejong
56(3)	7	2	5	2	0(1)	1(1)	0	0

Province								
Gyeonggi	Gangwon	Chung-buk	Chung-nam	Jeon-buk	Jeon-nam	Gyeong-buk	Gyeong-nam	Jeju
4(1)	2	0	3	6	8	6	9	1

* Number of reported deaths during the period from October 16 to October 26, 2020 (00:00)

** The figures inside parentheses indicate deaths following report of severe reaction



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- KDCA recommended the general public to take time to receive immunization in good health condition, for this season's influenza duration and scale is projected to likely be relatively small and delayed in comparison to previous years.
- KDCA also emphasized the precautions for immunization, recommending the public to drink plenty of water while waiting to receive vaccination and to disclose any pain, chronic conditions, or history of allergic reactions to the healthcare provider prior to receiving vaccination and to stay in the clinic or hospital for 15-30 minutes after receiving the vaccine for observation for any possible adverse reactions and to take sufficient rest on the day of immunization.
- Temporary minor reactions to vaccination such as topical pain on the vaccinated spot, reddish swelling, edema, muscle pain, fever, or nausea are common and will usually disappear within 1-2 days. However, in the event of shortness of breath, rashes, or severe dizziness following immunization, medical attention should be sought immediately.