

Novartis Flu Vaccine Syringe Lacks Safety Needle

The California Department of Public Health has learned that one of the Novartis Flu Vaccine products distributed nationwide lacks a safety device that can protect the user from needlesticks. This product was labeled as having a pre-filled syringe; however, the label did not indicate that the pre-filled syringe had a permanently affixed 5/8" needle. Cal/OSHA requires employers to use syringes and needles with built-in engineered sharps injury protection. Most employers in other states are required by OSHA standards to provide this protection. Needlestick injuries expose healthcare workers and others to bloodborne pathogens that cause illnesses such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

Novartis Influenza Virus Vaccine Fluvirin® 2008/2009 formula 10 x 0.5 ml pre-filled syringes for 4 yrs of age and older NDC 66521-111-01



Novartis has agreed to replace the pre-filled syringes lacking safety devices with syringes with a "luer" connection so that safety needles can be attached. For more information or to request replacements, contact your supplier or Novartis at (800) 244-7668.

For more information about needle safety and bloodborne infectious diseases:

- [Bloodborne Infectious Diseases](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/) - NIOSH Safety & Health Topic (www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/)
- [Bloodborne Pathogens and Needlestick Prevention](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html) - Federal OSHA Safety & Health Topic (www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/index.html)
- [Cal/OSHA bloodborne pathogen regulation](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5193.html) (www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5193.html)