



Dear Parent / Legal Guardian:

Recently, there has been concern about thimerosal used in vaccines. Thimerosal is used in some multi- dose vials of vaccines as a preservative to prevent contamination. In 1997, the Food and Drug Administration conducted a review of mercury content in vaccines. The review concluded that the use of thimerosal as a preservative in vaccines will result in a minimal intake of mercury during the first 6 months of life. The review conducted by the Food and Drug Administration found no evidence of harm caused by doses of thimerosal in vaccines, except for minor local reactions, such as swelling and redness at the injection site due to the sensitivity of thimerosal.

In 1999, in response to public concern, the Public Health Service agencies, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics and vaccine manufacturers agreed that thimerosal levels in vaccines should be reduced or eliminated as a precautionary measure. The influenza vaccine, however, currently still contains minute levels of thimerosal. Our influenza vaccine for patients 6 months to 3 years of age is thimerosal free.

If you have any concerns or questions about the use of thimerosal in the influenza vaccine please do not hesitate to discuss this with the doctor.

Sincerely,

The Women's Center

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