Decision Making Algorithm:
Influenza Vaccine for Persons with Previous ORS Symptoms

Oculo-respiratory syndrome (ORS) Definition:
- bilateral red eyes and
- respiratory symptoms (cough, wheeze, chest tightness, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, hoarseness or sore throat) with or without facial swelling
Occurring within 24 hours of immunization

How severe were the ORS symptoms?

**Mild**
(Easily tolerated, present but not problematic)

- May receive the influenza vaccine

**Moderate**
(Bothersome, interferes with activities of daily living, requires activity change & possible medication)

- May receive the influenza vaccine

- Non-lower respiratory symptoms (bilateral red eyes, cough, hoarseness, sore throat, facial swelling)
  - May receive the influenza vaccine

**Severe**
(Prevents activities of daily living, unable to work or sleep)

- Lower respiratory symptoms (wheeze, chest tightness, difficulty breathing) and/or difficulty swallowing
  - Case should be reviewed by MOH before receiving subsequent influenza vaccine

Approximately 5% to 34% of individuals who have previously experienced ORS may have a recurrence attributable to the vaccine, but these episodes are usually milder than the original one. Individuals who have a recurrence of ORS upon re-immunization do not necessarily experience further episodes with further immunizations. There is no data to support the preference of one vaccine product over another when re-immunizing those who have previously experienced ORS.

References: