DON’T WAIT TO VACCINATE

COVID-19 vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines.

Updated: 9/22/21

If a patient is eligible, both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be administered at the same visit, as recommended by CDC and its Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP).

In addition to flu vaccine, the COVID-19 vaccine can be given with other vaccines as well.

It is unknown whether reactogenicity (inflammatory response soon after vaccination) of COVID-19 vaccine is increased with coadministration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines or live vaccines.

Extensive experience with non-COVID-19 vaccines indicates immunogenicity and adverse event profiles are generally similar when vaccines are administered simultaneously as when they are administered alone.

Coadministration considerations:
- Individual is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines
- Individual’s risk of vaccine-preventable disease (e.g., during an outbreak or occupational exposures)
- Reactogenicity profile of the vaccines

Giving all vaccines for which a person is eligible at the same visit is considered a best practice as it increases the probability people will be up to date on recommended vaccines. It also is an important part of immunization practice, especially if a health care provider is uncertain that a patient will return for additional doses of vaccine.

If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site. For adolescents and adults, the deltoid muscle can be used for more than one intramuscular injection administered at different sites in the muscle.

CDC has guidance for health care providers on coadministration of vaccines. Essential best practices for multiple injections include:
- Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
- Administer the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction (e.g., tetanus-toxoid-containing and adjuvanted vaccines) in different limbs, if possible.

Check out additional information on best practices for administering vaccines.
Additional Information on Administration of Influenza Vaccines with Other Vaccines

- IIIV4s (Inactivated Influenza Vaccines) and RIV4 (Recombinant Influenza Vaccine) may be administered concurrently or sequentially with other live or inactivated vaccines.
- Providers should refer to current CDC/ACIP recommendations and guidance for the use of COVID-19 vaccines for up-to-date information on administration of these vaccines with other vaccines.
- Injectable vaccines given simultaneously should be administered at separate anatomic sites.
- LAIV4 (Live, Intranasal) may be administered simultaneously with other inactivated or live vaccines. If not given simultaneously, then ≥4 weeks should pass between administration of LAIV4 and another live vaccine.
- Immunogenicity and safety of simultaneous or sequential administration of two vaccines containing non-aluminum adjuvants has not yet been evaluated.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has additional information for the prevention and control of seasonal Influenza with vaccines.

Strategies to Prevent Missed Opportunities to Vaccinate Against COVID-19 and Flu

- Utilize Standing Orders. The Community Preventive Services Task Force and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note standing orders for immunizations as an effective strategy to increase immunization coverage rates for both children and adults.
- Offer walk-in appointments or after-hours/weekend clinics to accommodate patient schedules.
- Ensure sufficient stock is available for both flu and COVID-19 vaccines based on your patient population’s size and ages.
- Assess patient vaccination status during every clinical encounter. Set reminder alerts in your electronic health records for staff.