

## Immunization FAQs

### VaccineFinder.org

What is HealthMap Vaccine Finder?

**HealthMap Vaccine Finder is a free, online service where users can search for locations that offer immunizations. Vaccine Finder works with clinics, pharmacies, and health departments to provide accurate and up-to-date information about vaccination services. The goal is to make it simple for users to find a place to be immunized.**

Why is it important that I register my pharmacy with HealthMap Vaccine Finder?

**HealthMap Vaccine Finder provides a vehicle for promoting your vaccination services. More importantly, although there are other similar tools available, the CDC is pointing people to Vaccine Finder. Only sites that register will appear on the locator.**

What do I need to do to list my pharmacy in HealthMap Vaccine Finder?

**If you would like to list your pharmacy, you will first need to register for an account. After your account is approved, you will receive further instructions on how to submit information about your vaccination services. Register <https://admin.vaccinefinder.org/about/> or login to an existing profile <https://admin.vaccinefinder.org/admin/>**

Is there a cost to participate in this service?

**There is no fee to participate in HealthMap Vaccine Finder.**

### Immunization Registries

Why is it important to report to my state's Immunization Information System (IIS) or state registry?

**Many states require registry reporting. It is very important for pharmacies to report to the state and/or local immunization registry to help ensure an accurate database of vaccinations that have**

**been administered. With the COVID-19 vaccine expected to be administered in 2 separate doses and health departments controlling the distribution, reporting will be very important to them. It appears that there will be a bi-directional requirement---pharmacies will have to report to as well as be able to query the registry.**

What is the process for reporting to the state IIS?

**Reporting to the state or local IIS is done manually, through your pharmacy management system, or is facilitated by a technology vendor.**

Is there a cost for reporting to the state immunization registry?

**There is a fee for electronic reporting. It varies by vendor.**

### **Scheduling**

Should I consider scheduling appointments for immunizations as opposed to a walk-in approach?

**Yes, with this year's flu shot season expected to be one of the busiest in recent years, practice management tactics such as scheduling appointments should be considered. The med sync process presents another opportunity for alternative scheduling of immunizations.**

What are some other reasons why scheduling is important?

**Scheduling appointments allows the pharmacy to manage foot traffic for easier compliance with social distancing policies for the safety of patients and staff. In addition, scheduling is an important issue because some vaccines will be in multi-dose vials and have a short expiration after being unfrozen. Pharmacies will want to be sure they have enough patients scheduled to use supply as it is received.**

### **Clinical Considerations**

Should I encourage my patients to get the regular seasonal flu vaccine in addition to the COVID vaccine once it becomes available?

**Yes, these are two different viruses, and it is possible to contract both and even at the same time. It is important to be protected against influenza before a coronavirus vaccine becomes available, which could happen before the end of this year or early next year.**

What is the optimal time to administer the seasonal flu shot?

**If you get a request for a flu shot, you should not turn anyone away. However, age can be an important consideration in the timing of a flu shot. It takes roughly two weeks after the shot to develop immunity, which wanes faster in older people than in younger people. Younger people can get the shot beginning in September, but those over 65 might want to wait until October.**

**\*\*This document will be updated on a regular basis.\*\***