

## Coadministration of Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccines

### Key Points

September 15, 2021

#### Summary Key Points

- 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. Even though both vaccines can be given at the same visit, people should follow the recommended schedule for either vaccine: If you haven't gotten your currently recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccine, get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can, and ideally get a flu vaccine by the end of October.
- While limited data exist on giving COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines, including flu vaccines, experience with giving other vaccines together has shown the way our bodies develop protection and possible side effects are generally similar whether vaccines are given alone or with other 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.
- CDC has [extensive guidance for health care providers](#) on coadministration of vaccines.
  - When administering COVID-19 and flu vaccines during the same clinical visit, two different injection sites should be used, at least one inch apart from each other.
  - If COVID-19 vaccines are administered at the same time as flu vaccines which might be more likely to cause a local injection site reaction (e.g., adjuvanted or high-dose inactivated influenza vaccines), the two should be administered in different limbs, if possible.
- Both COVID-19 and flu vaccines have been shown to reduce illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Patients with concerns about getting both vaccines at the same time should speak with a health care provider.

#### *For Health Care Professionals*

- CDC guidance supports [coadministration](#) of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines, including influenza vaccines, without regard to timing.
  - Previously, CDC guidance recommended healthcare professionals administer COVID-19 vaccine alone. This recommendation was out of an abundance of caution during a period when these vaccines were new and not based on known safety or immunogenicity concerns. However, substantial data have now been collected regarding the safety of COVID-19 vaccines currently approved or authorized by FDA.
- [Coadministration](#) of all recommended vaccines is important because it increases the probability that an individual will be fully vaccinated at the appropriate age. It is also an important part of immunization practice if a health care provider is uncertain that a patient will return for additional doses of vaccine.
- Best practices for [administering more than one vaccine](#), including COVID-19 vaccines and influenza vaccines, include:

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- When preparing more than one vaccine, label each with the name and dosage (amount) of vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Always inject vaccines into different injection sites. Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible so that any local reactions can be differentiated. Each muscle (deltoid, vastus lateralis) has multiple injection sites ([Vaccine Administration Route and Site](#)).
- If administered at the same time, COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that might be more likely to cause a local injection site reaction (for example, [high-dose and adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccines](#)) should be administered in different limbs, if possible ([Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)–United States, 2021-22](#)).
- Inject vaccines rapidly without aspiration since aspiration is not recommended before administering a vaccine ([Vaccine Administration Route and Site](#)).
- There are many existing resources on administration and co-administration of vaccines relevant for healthcare providers, including:
  - [Pink Book: Vaccine Administration | CDC](#)
  - [You Call The Shots: Vaccinating Adolescents \(cdc.gov\)](#)
  - [Vaccine Administration Training Module \(cdc.gov\)](#)
  - [Vaccine Administration: Needle Gauge and Length \(cdc.gov\)](#)
  - [Vaccine Administration: Intramuscular \(IM\) Injection Children 7 through 18 years of age and Vaccine Administration: Intramuscular \(IM\) Injection Adults 19 years of age and older](#)
  - [Intramuscular \(IM\) Injection: Sites - YouTube](#)
  - [Live, Attenuated Influenza Vaccine \(LAIV\) - YouTube](#)
  - <https://www.medpagetoday.com/meetingcoverage/acip/93283>
  - [King G, Hadler S. Simultaneous administration of childhood vaccines: an important public health policy that is safe and efficacious. \*Pediatr Infect Dis J\* 1994;13\(5\):394–407](#)

### *Communications:*

- Outreach surrounding coadministration of flu and COVID-19 vaccines will focus primarily on reaching public health partners and health care providers.
- This include promoting the existing resources listed above as well as new outreach and new materials for the 2021-2022 season. As examples:
  - On [September 9 CDC held a COCA Call](#) on “Flu Vaccine Recommendations for the upcoming season, including guidance for HCPs on coadministration of flu and COVID-19 vaccines.”
  - CDC also is developing a job aid and video for health care professionals on coadministration of vaccines.
- CDC also will build consumer awareness about the option for coadministration of flu and COVID-19 vaccines, including through social media.