

# Minimizing Potential COVID-19 Exposure During Flu Vaccination

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# OBJECTIVES

- Review the importance of receiving an Influenza Vaccine during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Identify and compare patients that should receive the influenza vaccine against patients that should defer
- Discuss Infection Prevention Strategies for administering Influenza Vaccine during the COVID-19 Pandemic

# Current COVID-19 STATS

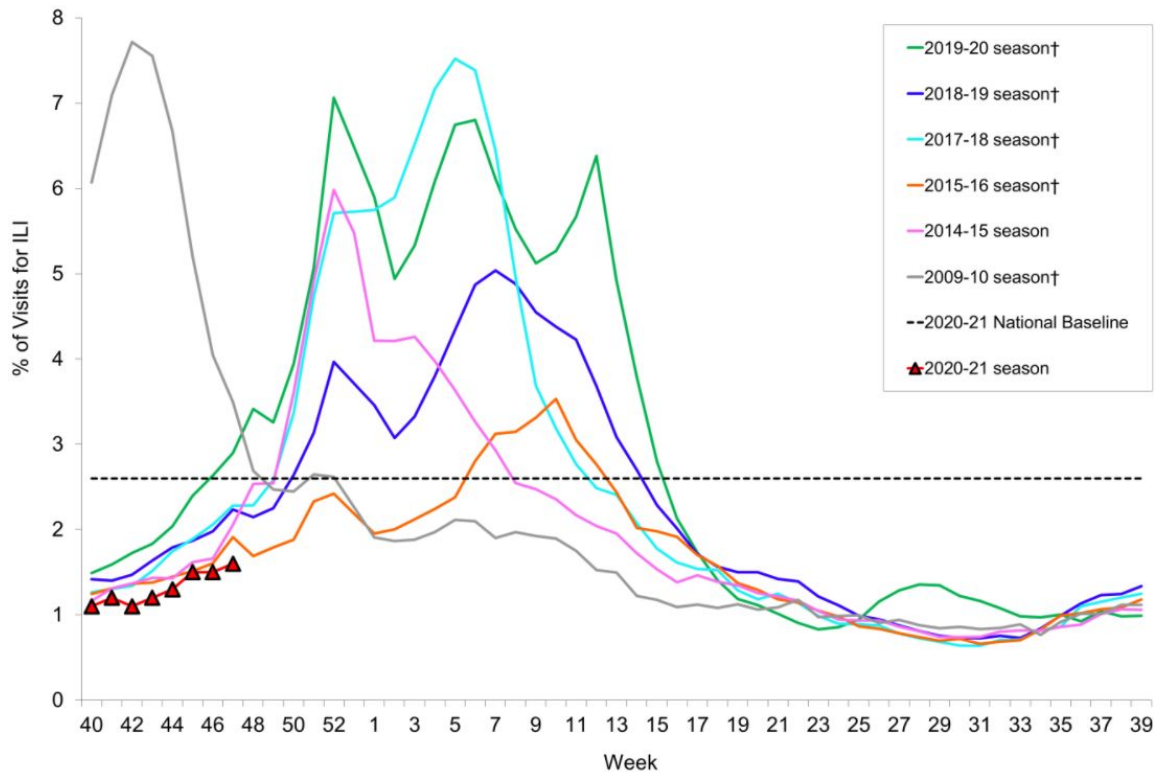


	TOTAL REPORTED	ON DEC. 1	14-DAY CHANGE
<b>Cases</b>	13.9 million+	184,294	+2% →
<b>Deaths</b>	272,633	2,610	+31% →
<b>Hospitalized</b>		98,691	+32% →

■ Day with data reporting anomaly.

Hospitalization data from the Covid Tracking Project; 14-day change trends use 7-day averages.

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, 2020-2021 and Selected Previous Seasons



†These seasons did not have a week 53, so the week 53 value is an average of week 52 and week 1.

# QUESTION:

What type of outreach and education are you doing with the community to let them know the importance of flu vaccination as well as reassuring patients that there are safety protocols in place to help minimize SARS-CoV-2 infection?

- Marketing Department
- Facebook
- Website - Information on flu locations
  - <https://www.fdihb.org/flu2020>
- Drive thru flu shot (Flu-Rassic Park)
- Signage around hospital encouraging flu shots, wearing a mask, physical distancing and washing hands/sanitizing
- Covid19 Patient Information pamphlets at the door

# Importance of Influenza vaccination during Covid19 Pandemic

- The flu virus and virus that causes covid will both spread during the fall and winter
- It is possible to have the flu and covid19 or other respiratory illnesses at the same time
- Flu vaccines reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death
- Saves healthcare resources for the care of patients with COVID-19

To Receive or To Defer??



# Influenza Vaccine Eligibility

- Everyone 6 months and older without any contraindications
- Healthcare personnel should use every opportunity during the influenza vaccination season to administer influenza vaccines to all eligible persons, including:
  - Essential workers
  - Persons at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
    - 65 years and older, residents in post-acute and long-term care facilities, and persons of all ages with certain underlying medical conditions
  - Persons at high risk for influenza complications
    - infants aged 6 months and older and young children aged <5 years, children with neurologic conditions, pregnant people, adults aged 65 years and older, and other persons with certain underlying medical conditions



# Deferment of Influenza Vaccine Visit during the COVID19 Pandemic

- Positive test for COVID in the past 10 days
- Symptomatic COVID patients that have not met criteria to discontinue isolation
  - 10 days after symptom onset
  - 24 hours with NO fever without the use of fever reducing medication
  - No longer moderately to severely ill
- Persons with known exposure to COVID patients - until 14 day quarantine/isolation period is over

Patient Setting	Patient with no known exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19 in past 14 days	Patient with close contact to a person with COVID-19 in past 14 days	Patient with asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic COVID-19 <sup>e</sup>	Patient with symptomatic COVID-19
Outpatient Care (Urgent care, outpatient clinics, community influenza vaccination events)	Vaccinate	Can vaccinate during quarantine period (within 14 days of exposure), particularly if they might not have another opportunity to be vaccinated. <sup>9f</sup> However, patient should not seek outpatient care solely for vaccination until quarantine period ends.	Can vaccinate during isolation (within 10 days of positive test result). <sup>5</sup> However, patient should not seek outpatient care solely for vaccination until isolation period ends.	Should consider deferring (postponing) vaccination for at least <a href="#">10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND COVID-19 symptoms are improving*</a> AND no longer moderately or severely ill. Consider further deferring vaccination until fully recovered from acute illness.
Emergency Department	Vaccinate	Can vaccinate during quarantine period (within 14 days of exposure) particularly if they might not have another opportunity to be vaccinated. <sup>9f</sup>	Can vaccinate during isolation (within 10 days of positive test result). <sup>5</sup>	Should consider deferring (postponing) vaccination for at least <a href="#">10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND COVID-19 symptoms are improving*</a> AND no longer moderately or severely ill. Consider further deferring vaccination until fully recovered from acute illness.
Inpatient acute care	Vaccinate at discharge	Can vaccinate at discharge. <sup>9f</sup>	Can vaccinate at discharge <sup>5</sup>	Should consider deferring (postponing) vaccination for at least <a href="#">10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND COVID-19 symptoms are improving*</a> AND no longer moderately or severely ill. Consider further deferring vaccination until fully recovered from acute illness.

# Getting a Flu Vaccine During the Covid19 Pandemic



# FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES

- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid close contact - Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect
- Monitor Your Health Daily
- Stay Home if Sick

# Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals

- Minimize chances for exposures
  - Strategy for screening
    - Temperature check
    - Covid Related Questions: symptoms, exposure
  - Limit and monitor points of entry to facility
    - Physicals barriers to exposure - i.e plexiglass
    - Cloth masks for all patients > age 2
    - Respiratory hygiene reminders
- Ensure all staff adhere to the following infection prevention and control procedures
  - PPE
    - Face mask at all times while in facility
    - Eye protection in areas with moderate to substantial community spread
    - Optional eye protection for areas with minimal to no community transmission unless otherwise indicated as part of standard precautions.

# Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals

- Provide appointments or other strategies to avoid crowding and manage patient flow
- Ensure sufficient staff and materials quick work flow to move patients in and out
- Limit amount of people at one time
- Unidirectional signs
- Social distancing between patients
- If feasible, separate area/timing for elderly or patients with increased risk of complications from COVID

# Considerations for Vaccine Administration

- Intranasal Flu (LAIV)
  - Gloves to decrease likelihood of coming into contact with a patient's mucous membranes and body fluids.
  - Change Gloves should be changed between patients in addition to performing hand hygiene.
  - Administration of these vaccines is not considered an [aerosol-generating procedure](#)
    - N95 not necessary
- Intramuscular
  - Change gloves and perform hand hygiene after each patient

# Vaccine Administration

- Review immunization history
- Assess need for immunization
- Screen for contraindications and precautions
- Educate Patient
- Prepare the vaccine
- Administer the vaccine
- Document the vaccination



# Counseling Pearls

## Side Effects:

- Local reactions - redness, pain, swelling at site of injection
- Systemic reactions - fever, chills, headaches and body aches

## Management

- If fever develops, stay home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
- If fever does not recover within 72 hours/covid symptoms, contact healthcare provider

Flu vaccines take about 2 weeks before immunity develops

Flu vaccine does not protect against COVID19

# SUMMARY

Administration of Influenza Vaccine is an essential service during the Covid19 Pandemic

Assess the vaccination status of all patients at every health care visit.

Encourage vaccination of all eligible patients

Delay vaccination for persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Follow CDC guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in health care settings.

Communicate with patients/families about how they can be safely vaccinated during the pandemic.

# REFERENCES

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>

[https://www.who.int/immunization/policy/position\\_papers/Interim\\_SAGE\\_influenza\\_vaccination\\_recommendations.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/immunization/policy/position_papers/Interim_SAGE_influenza_vaccination_recommendations.pdf?ua=1)

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/10/911592378/questions-on-getting-flu-shot-this-year-answered>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>