

Health Advisory

Updated Guidance about COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccines

December 8, 2021

Minimize barriers to vaccination this season:

- Reach out to patients to offer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines.
- Co-administer COVID-19 vaccine and influenza vaccine during the same visit.
- Offer walk-in vaccination hours.
- Offer vaccination hours in the evening and weekends.
- Offer family scheduling options, so everyone in the family can be protected.

Recent increases in influenza indicate the return of seasonal activity. We can expect continued increases in influenza activity over the next several weeks, which could be particularly severe given the absence of seasonal activity last year. In addition, COVID-19 rates continue to increase concurrently, and the Omicron variant has been detected in Philadelphia. With co-circulation of both viruses, it's more important than ever to ensure that our communities are vaccinated against both COVID-19 and influenza viruses.

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged **6 months and older** who do not have contraindications. Influenza activity has historically peaked most often in February but can peak as early as December, and as late as March. Vaccination should continue throughout the season, while influenza viruses are circulating.

Currently everyone ages **5 years and older** is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals **18 and older** who have completed a primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine should receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine (6 months following second dose of an mRNA vaccine or 2 months following a single dose Janssen vaccine).

Co-administration of COVID-19 Vaccine with Influenza Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered **without regard to timing of other vaccines**. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and influenza vaccine.

Resources:

- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [Summary of Recommendations \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [2021-2022 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations COCA](#)
- [Ask the Experts: Administering Vaccines \(immunize.org\)](#)
- <https://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2020.pdf>