

Updated Guidance for NH Immunization Providers for Vaccination of Adults and Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic

PEDIATRIC IMMUNIZATIONS

Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) have each released guidance on maintaining childhood immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- CDC: [Information for Pediatric Health Care Providers](#)
- AAP: [COVID-19 Clinical Guidance Q & A](#)
- AAFP: [COVID-19: Guidance for Family Physicians on Preventive and Non-urgent Care](#)

CDC: “Healthcare providers in communities affected by COVID-19 are using strategies [such as these from AAP](#) to separate well visits from sick visits.

*Because of personal, practice, or community circumstances related to COVID-19, some providers may not be able to provide well-child visits, including immunizations, for all patients in their practice. **If a practice can provide only limited well-child visits, providers are encouraged to prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age) when possible.** CDC is monitoring the situation and will continue to provide guidance”.*

AAFP: “The AAFP supports the CDC’s mitigation strategy as a framework for family physicians to protect patients, families, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. ... Family physicians should consider working expeditiously to provide routine, chronic, and preventive visits by telehealth, virtual, or e-visit as much as possible ... affected communities are developing strategies to ensure that the delivery of newborns and well-child care is maintained. This includes childhood immunizations. Practices have separated well visits from sick visits temporarily (e.g., well visits in the morning, sick visits in the afternoon) or spatially (e.g., well visits in a specified clinic or other location, separated from sick visits)....If only limited well-child visits can be provided, family physicians are encouraged to prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age), when possible”.

ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS

CDC has issued new guidance for adult immunization in areas with community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). CDC recommends that needed immunizations be postponed, except when:

- The adult is present for some other purpose and the immunization can be delivered during that visit with no additional risk, or

- The adult and their clinician find a compelling need to receive the immunization after concluding that potential benefits outweigh risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2.

CDC's guidance for "Delivery of Adult Clinical Preventive Services, Including Immunizations," can be found here: [Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#).

OTHER VACCINE REMINDERS

- Be sure your vaccine management plan is up to date with current contact information and with your emergency plan in the event you need to move vaccine.
- Be sure your vaccine is monitored at all times with either a digital data logger (DDL) or a system that provides continuous temperature monitoring to ensure viable vaccine.
- Continuous temperature monitoring requires the use of a DDL for transporting vaccine.
- Be sure to pack vaccines appropriately if you need to move them. Refer to your emergency plan for details. Be sure you have proper packing supplies on hand in the event transport is needed.
- *If you enact your Emergency Plan and move your vaccine to another location, please notify NHIP.*
- If your office is closed but has vaccine, please mark the vaccine DO NOT USE until temperatures can be reviewed for the entire time the office was closed to ensure there have been no excursions.
- As always, report any temperature excursion to the NH Immunization Program.

THANK YOU for all you are doing to keep NH families and communities safe!

For NH Specific COVID-19 information, visit <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

For all your immunization questions, contact the **NH Immunization Program**
at 603-271-4482 or at immunizations@dhhs.nh.gov