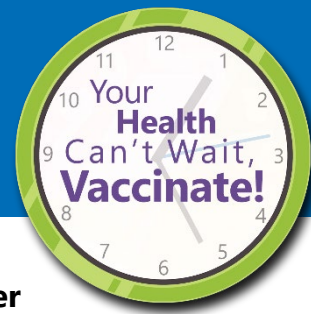


Your Health Can't Wait, Vaccinate!

Ask the Experts Webinar Questions & Answers



The following questions and answers are **bonus content from the October 2023 Ask the Experts About Immunization webinar. Visit the HQIN Resource Center to access the [slides and recording](#).**

Q: If a person has had COVID-19 within the past month, can they still get the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Anyone who is not actively infectious is eligible to receive the vaccine at any time. Some people are hesitant to get the vaccine right after they have been infected, and that's fine. Basically, we say you can wait up to three months to get the updated vaccine, because you probably still have good immunity circulating for the next three months, but then I would absolutely recommend getting it after three months. However, if it's convenient, if you are getting your flu vaccine anyway, you are okay to get the COVID-19 vaccine, even if you had the actual infection two weeks prior. – *answered by Dr. Morgan Katz*

Q: Can the updated (annual) COVID-19 vaccine be given with other vaccines like the flu vaccine?

A: Yes, you can actually co-administer all three vaccines (COVID-19, flu and pneumonia) at once, but if that is too much for your residents, it's okay to co-administer two of the vaccines and then wait two weeks or so and administer the third vaccine depending on availability. Co-administration is fine and that's what I recommend in terms of convenience. – *answered by Dr. Morgan Katz*

Q: If you haven't had any COVID vaccines, where do you start now?

A: The great news is, even if you are unvaccinated, just getting the one, new updated vaccine puts you where you need to be! You just need one mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) to be considered up to date and vaccinated for COVID-19, regardless of your previous vaccination status. If you are unvaccinated and want to use Novavax, you would need to get two doses. – *answered by Dr. Morgan Katz*

Q: I noticed our COVID-19 vaccine labels say bivalent on them, what should I do?

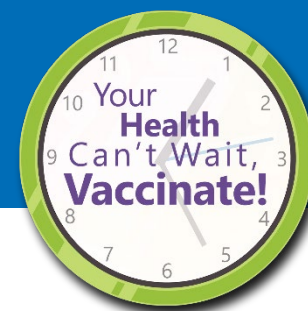
A: Talk to your supervisor or pharmacist right away. The bivalent COVID-19 vaccinations were discontinued for use. The mRNA vaccines approved since September 12, 2023 are Moderna's SPIKEVAX (COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA) and Pfizer's COMIRNATY® (COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA). If bivalent vaccinations were given, wait two months to give the currently approved monovalent mRNA vaccination. – *answered by Laura Finch, RN, MS, NCP*

Q: If we had to choose which to give an elderly person first, would we give flu, pneumonia or COVID-19?

A: This really should depend on the circulating viruses and the person's vaccination status. For example, if you have someone who is completely unvaccinated for COVID and we know that COVID is circulating now, and they are willing to get vaccinated, I would prioritize the COVID vaccine in this situation.

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If you know that flu rates are actively increasing in your community, I would prioritize flu vaccines. If you had someone who had never been vaccinated for pneumonia and had underlying lung disease and was at high risk, I would prioritize the pneumonia vaccine in that situation. In general, all these vaccines are really important, and I would try to get them in the arms of anyone willing when it's convenient and when it's available. – *answered by Dr. Morgan Katz*

Q: Is the COVID vaccine transitioning to a yearly vaccine, or will it continue with boosters and new vaccines?

A: I highly anticipate that the COVID-19 vaccine is going to transition to yearly. I think the booster schedule was confusing and reduces uptake and I think that once we get everyone on a yearly schedule will be better at targeting circulating variants, which increases efficacy. – *answered by Dr. Morgan Katz*

Q: If a person declines to take vaccines on the same day, when can the vaccines be given?

A: This is a user's choice, they can get them the next day, or wait a week or they can wait 2 weeks. We know that we can co-administer vaccines. Emphasizing convenience to encourage life-saving vaccines is paramount. – *answered by Dr. Morgan Katz*

Q: Do you still need to get the pneumonia vaccine every 5 years if you get Prevnar 20?

A: In general, the literature (the trials) has been followed out to a five year review and vaccine manufacturers are tracking this very closely. Look at the pneumonia vaccine history of residents, especially in those 19-64 with chronic medical conditions and those with immunocompromising conditions - it's important to look at the algorithms. Review the [shared clinical decision-making tool](#) for more information. – *answered by Dr. Danny Felty*

Q: Who should be prioritized for a pneumonia vaccine?

A: You are looking for indications for risk from pneumococcal disease, so 65 and older but also in those age groups that we mentioned from 19-64; you've got some very specific cases there as well. – *answered by Dr. Danny Felty*

Q: Can the RSV vaccine be given with other vaccines, such as flu or COVID-19?

A: Yes, it can be co-administered and that's acceptable per CDC guidelines. More information can be found on the CDC webpage specific to RSV. Review the [shared clinical decision-making tool](#) for more information on administration. – *answered by Dr. Danny Felty*