Partnerships and Promotion of Late-Season Influenza Doses to Ensure a Successful Influenza Vaccination Season during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Background
Summary of 2019-2020 influenza season

During the 2019-2020 flu season, CDC estimates flu caused:

- **38 million** flu illnesses
  - About the same as the population of California

- **400,000** flu hospitalizations
  - About the same as the population of Miami, FL

- **22,000** flu deaths
  - Enough people to fill Madison Square Garden in New York City
Adult flu vaccination coverage by age group, 2010-2020

Figure 4. Flu Vaccination Coverage by Age Group, Adults 18 years and older, United States, 2010–2020

Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals around the estimates.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvaxview/coverage-1920estimates.htm
Influenza vaccination coverage by state, adults 18 years and older, United States, 2019-2020 season

Figure 5. Flu Vaccination Coverage by State, Adults 18 years and older, United States, 2019–20 Season*

Data Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals around the estimates.
* Includes flu vaccinations received July 2019 through May 2020, except for the District of Columbia, for which only vaccinations through November 2019 were included (see Methods).

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/fluvoxview/coverage-1920estimates.htm
Racial and ethnic disparities in influenza coverage

Reducing existing disparities will be important to protect minority and at-risk populations for both influenza and future COVID-19 vaccines

Source: National Health Interview Survey, 2017
Flu Vaccination Planning for 2020-21
Southern hemisphere activity
- Flu activity in the Southern Hemisphere reported at much lower levels than is typical
- Fewer countries are reporting flu surveillance data and fewer viruses are being detected in general
- Physical distancing and other preventative measures to reduce spread of SARS-CoV-2, may have also helped to reduce the spread of influenza
- The COVID-19 pandemic also has influenced health-seeking behaviors and testing priorities and capacities making interpretation challenging
Current U.S. flu season

- It is unclear what impact the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will have on the current flu season in the U.S.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm#ILIActivityMap
Increasing seasonal influenza vaccination coverage to decrease health care utilization, 2020-21

- Increasing flu vaccination coverage will reduce stress on the health care system.
  - Decrease doctor visits and hospitalizations
  - Reduce influenza diagnostic testing

- Focus on adults at higher risk from COVID-19.
  - Staff and residents of long-term care facilities
  - Adults with underlying illnesses
  - African-Americans and Hispanics
  - Adults who are part of critical infrastructure
Barriers to flu vaccination during the pandemic

- There might be fewer worksite vaccination clinics (~16% of adults receive flu vaccination at the workplace).
- People might not feel safe going into clinics or pharmacy settings.
- People might not think they need a flu vaccination this year because they are physically distancing.
- In-person clinic visits might be cancelled or moved to telehealth.
- Concerns about safety of COVID-19 vaccine could translate to (more) questions about safety of flu vaccine.
- COVID-19-related unemployment might impact ability to afford flu vaccination.
- Working parents have limited free time to focus on staying up-to-date on vaccinations because of work/home school/child care responsibilities.

Activities critical to successful flu vaccination season

- Information on where people can receive their flu vaccination
- Coordinated messages on the importance of flu vaccination this season
- Protocols in place to ensure persons can be safely vaccinated
- Address common misperceptions about flu vaccination
- Vaccination efforts continue for the duration of flu season
CDC's FluFinder Distribution Tracking Program:
Cumulative Doses of Influenza Vaccines Distributed by Month, by Season:
2016-'17 - 2020-'21

Cumulative number of doses distributed, in millions

Month
August wk 1  wk 2  wk 3  wk 4  September wk 1  wk 2  wk 3  wk 4  October wk 1  wk 2  wk 3  wk 4  November wk 1  wk 2  wk 3  wk 4  December wk 1  wk 2  wk 3  wk 4  January wk 1  wk 2  wk 3  wk 4  February wk 1  wk 2  wk 3  wk 4

2016-'17
2017-'18
2018-'19
2019-'20
2020-'21

CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Resources and Supplemental Flu Doses to Increase Flu Vaccination Rates
Amplification of efforts for 2020-21 influenza season

- $140 million in supplemental funding distributed among 64 jurisdictions
- Intended to support activities designed to increase flu vaccination coverage
  - Plan activities with partners that serve priority populations
  - Build or enhance adult vaccination programs
  - Promote reminder/recall activities
  - Improve provider allocation and ordering
  - Organize or fund mass vaccination clinics
  - Implement vaccine strike teams

- Establishing or expanding key partnerships to reach vulnerable populations for flu vaccination will ultimately help build the foundation for COVID-19 vaccination
Indiana: Example #1 of partnering with CHCs

- ISDH has 125 CHCs/FQHCs enrolled in VFC and 50 enrolled in the Adult Vaccine Program
- ISDH will strengthen its relationship with these facilities and stress importance of flu vaccination
- ISDH is working with Indiana Primary Healthcare Association to develop consistent messaging on importance of annual seasonal flu vaccinations
Indiana: Partnering with CHCs—measurable activities and evaluation

**Outcome 1:** Increase the number of Indiana adults, 19 and over, who are vaccinated with the 2020-2021 seasonal influenza vaccine

- **Activity 1:** By June 30, 2021, the Indiana Immunization Division will increase the number of adults vaccinated with influenza vaccine by working with immunization partners across the state.
  - **Evaluation 1:** Target: 60% of adult residents will obtain an influenza vaccine for the 2020-2021 influenza season. ISDH will leverage IIS data, SMaRT AFIX and county rate dashboards to determine coverage rates on a monthly basis.

- **Activity 2:** By February 1, 2021, the Indiana Immunization Division will create and disseminate provider report cards outlining the percentage of adult patients in the practice receiving a seasonal influenza vaccine.
  - **Evaluation 1:** Number of report cards created and disseminated
Indiana: Partnering with CHCs—measurable activities and evaluation

**Outcome 2:** Increase patient awareness and knowledge of influenza vaccine and influenza related illness

- **Activity 1:** By October 1, 2020, ISDH will educate 750+ enrolled providers by conducting in-service and virtual training for partners. This training will be conducted by subject matter experts to demonstrate the value of influenza vaccination.

  - **Evaluation 1:** Target: 95% of all enrolled providers will be educated on the importance of seasonal influenza.
Louisiana: Example #2 of partnering with CHCs

• Louisiana Dept of Health has established partnerships with 39 FQHCs (that operate >285 clinics) to implement flu vaccination campaigns

• These sites completed a first-ever pre-book for CDC-provided adult flu vaccine in June 2020

• Begin enhanced adult flu campaign in fall 2020
Objective: By July 15, 2020, the 39 FQHCs will have completed the flu pre-book process with the Louisiana Immunization Program

Performance measure: pre-book for additional flu doses successfully submitted to CDC by the Vaccine Operations Manager.

Objective: By March 1, 2021, FQHCs participating in adult flu campaign will have provided >12,500 adult flu doses

Performance measure: Number flu doses administered at FQHC sites by March 1, 2021

Target: 12,500 doses
### Federal doses requested in CDC’s spring pre-book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adult Doses</th>
<th>Pediatric Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>810,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSK</td>
<td>302,710</td>
<td>8,926,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanofi</td>
<td>78,190</td>
<td>6,331,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seqirus USA, Inc</td>
<td>117,480</td>
<td>406,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Doses</strong></td>
<td><strong>499,050</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,474,950</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Doses in this table were pre-booked (reserved) by awardees during Jan-Feb 2020 for use in children and adults. Of note, the pediatric doses shown here do not reflect ~2M additional doses added by CDC in May 2020 to account for an anticipated increase in VFC eligible children requiring flu vaccination during the 2020-21 season.
### Additional adult flu vaccine doses purchased this summer

Doses in this table have been purchased by CDC using pandemic response funds to enhance seasonal flu vaccination in adults during the 2020-21 season. Awardees submitted supplemental pre-book requests for these doses at the end of June.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Doses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AstraZeneca</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSK</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanofi</td>
<td>2,677,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seqirus</td>
<td>3,377,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,355,060</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Joint letter from NACHC and AIM

- 1st time these organizations officially partnered
- Leadership in both organizations wrote a letter to all 64 immunization awardees encouraging collaboration
3,697,470 free flu doses pre-ordered for CHCs
Note: Awardees will receive, and flu vaccine use will be tracked as, a single allocation of vaccine, regardless of the CHC designation.
Implementation

3.6 million free flu doses pre-ordered for health centers

ACT NOW

- Focus on Flu Vaccination policies, systems, documentation and workflows
- Partner with your Public Health Department for Free Flu Doses
- Use free Flu doses **before** purchasing additional doses
- Document in IIS
- Engage vaccine hesitant populations
- Leverage primary care association and HCCN communication tools for care teams and communities
- Enroll to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider through the public health department.
GOAL: Ensure that the late-season doses do NOT go to waste

- Partnerships between CDC, HRSA, NACHC, AIM, and state and local health depts are continuing

- HRSA is promoting the late-season flu vaccine doses through their channels (Bulletin, weekly e-newsletter, and Program Center Updates with their director)

- A second joint letter between AIM and NACHC will be coming
Administration of the federally-funded doses

- CDC has recommended that providers reduce any financial barriers to the administration of this vaccine, and that people not be turned away for an inability to pay.

- CDC recommended that any administration fee is capped at the maximum fee allowable for the administration of VFC vaccine.
Flu Vaccination Guidance and VaccineFinder
CDC guidance to safely providing immunization services

- Correlates with CDC Framework for Providing Non-COVID-19 Clinical Care
- Includes considerations for use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Consideration of various clinical settings for vaccine administration
- Special focus on priority populations for influenza vaccine
- Language aligned with COVID-19 response websites

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html
## Updates to guidance for healthcare and congregate settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Setting</th>
<th>Patient with no known exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19 in past 14 days</th>
<th>Patient with close contact to a person with COVID-19 in past 14 days</th>
<th>Patient with asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic COVID-19</th>
<th>Patient with symptomatic COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outpatient Care (Urgent care, outpatient clinic, community influenza vaccination events)</strong></td>
<td>Vaccinate</td>
<td>Can vaccinate during quarantine period (within 14 days of exposure), particularly if they might not have another opportunity to be vaccinated.(^{11}) However, patient should not seek outpatient care solely for vaccination until quarantine period ends.</td>
<td>Can vaccinate during isolation (within 10 days of positive test result).(^{1}) However, patient should not seek outpatient care solely for vaccination until isolation period ends.</td>
<td>Should consider deferring (postponing) vaccination for at least 10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND COVID-19 symptoms are improving(^{1}) AND no longer moderately or severely ill. Consider further deferring vaccination until fully recovered from acute illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emergency Department</strong></td>
<td>Vaccinate</td>
<td>Can vaccinate during quarantine period (within 14 days of exposure), particularly if they might not have another opportunity to be vaccinated.(^{11})</td>
<td>Can vaccinate during isolation (within 10 days of positive test result).(^{1})</td>
<td>Should consider deferring (postponing) vaccination for at least 10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND COVID-19 symptoms are improving(^{1}) AND no longer moderately or severely ill. Consider further deferring vaccination until fully recovered from acute illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inpatient acute care</strong></td>
<td>Vaccinate at discharge</td>
<td>Can vaccinate at discharge.(^{1})</td>
<td>Can vaccinate at discharge.(^{1})</td>
<td>Should consider deferring (postponing) vaccination for at least 10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND COVID-19 symptoms are improving(^{1}) AND no longer moderately or severely ill. Consider further deferring vaccination until fully recovered from acute illness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congregate Healthcare Setting (e.g., post-acute or long-term care facility; group home; mental health inpatient facility; inpatient substance use disorder treatment centers)</strong></td>
<td>Vaccinate</td>
<td>Can vaccinate.(^{1})</td>
<td>Can vaccinate</td>
<td>Should consider deferring (postponing) vaccination for at least 10 days after symptom onset AND 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND COVID-19 symptoms are improving(^{1}) AND no longer moderately or severely ill. Consider further deferring vaccination until fully recovered from acute illness.</td>
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Guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic

Planning for a satellite, temporary, or off-site vaccination clinic requires additional considerations during the COVID-19 pandemic, including physical distancing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and enhanced sanitation efforts. These additional considerations are called out in boxes throughout this guidance. However, because COVID-19 guidance is evolving, regularly check the CDC's infection control guidance for healthcare professionals about coronavirus (COVID-19) for updated information. Consider signing up for the email updates on the website to stay informed of any changes.

Planning Activities

Pre-Clinic Activities

During the Clinic Activities

Post-Clinic Activities

Planners are encouraged to use

- Resources for hosting an off-site vaccination clinic
- The Checklist of Best Practices for Vaccination Clinics Held at Satellite, Temporary, or Off-Site Locations, which outlines CDC guidelines and best practices essential for patient safety and vaccine effectiveness, including guidance for vaccine shipment, transport, storage, handling, preparation, administration, and documentation at temporary clinics.
Checklist of best practices for vaccination clinics held at satellite, temporary, or off-site locations

**VaccineFinder** Improving Access to Vaccines

VaccineFinder helps find providers that offer seasonal flu vaccine and other immunizations. [https://vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org)

- Easy-to-use website directs patients to locations with immunizations on hand.
- Saves time and resources during a seasonal outbreak or pandemic
Flu season is the dress rehearsal for COVID-19
FLU SEASON 2020: The Dress Rehearsal for COVID-19

- **Pre-ordering Vaccines Planning** (June 2020)
- **Setting the Stage** (June 2020-September 2020)
- **Flu Vaccinations** (October 2020 – June 2021)
- **Use Free Flu Vaccine Does** (December 2020-January 2021)
- **COVID 19 Vaccines** (March 2021??)
Only 50% of Americans plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine

Do you plan to get a coronavirus vaccine when one is available?

For some in the United States, the answer is no, according to a survey of 1,056 people in mid-May.

### A National Strategy to Reinforce Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reinforce Trust</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regularly share clear and accurate COVID-19 vaccine information and take visible actions to build trust in the vaccine, the vaccinator, and the system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Empower Healthcare Providers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote confidence among healthcare personnel in their decision to get vaccinated and to recommend vaccination to their patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Engage Communities &amp; Individuals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage communities in a sustainable, equitable and inclusive way—using two-way communication to listen, increase collaboration and build trust in COVID-19 vaccine.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making a strong vaccine recommendation: #HowIRecommend videos

How do you recommend flu vaccine to adults with diabetes, and why do you say it that way?

#HowIRecommend

www.cdc.gov/vaccines/howirecommend/adult-vacc-videos.html
Conclusions
Conclusions

- Strongly promote flu vaccination – especially this season in the context of the pandemic – and particularly among our most vulnerable populations.
- The $140M supplemental flu funding and the additional 9.3M adult flu doses will be used to achieve increased flu vaccination coverage in underserved adults.
- State and local health departments are establishing new and strengthening existing partnerships with CHCs in their jurisdictions.
  - These partnerships will help ensure the millions of late-season flu vaccine doses are successfully administered.
- Use your flu vaccination program to plan/prepare for the complexities involved in the implementation of a successful COVID-19 vaccination program.
Thank you

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

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