

CDC Adult Immunization Guidelines and VFA Ordering during COVID-19

Key takeaways from this message:

- CDC adult immunization guidelines during COVID-19 pandemic
- The next VFA ordering period is May 4-18th.
- All VFA vaccines will be capped at 100 doses each during next ordering period
- Assess vaccine need based on adult immunization guidelines during this pandemic, and practice's in-person visit volume.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect communities across the United States. Maintaining immunizations during this period may not be feasible due to current impact of COVID-19 community transmission, staffing, and patients' concerns. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued [recommendations](#) for prioritizing adult immunizations during this pandemic period, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has developed strategies that can be implemented across practices to slow the spread of disease.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMMUNIZING ADULT PATIENTS

CDC recommends that in areas with community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, immunizations should be postponed except when:

- An in-person visit must be scheduled for some other purpose and the clinical preventive service can be delivered during that visit with no additional risk; or



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- An individual patient and their clinician believe that there is a compelling need to receive the service based on an assessment that the potential benefit outweighs the risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Other considerations

- Influenza and other vaccine-preventable diseases continue to circulate in our communities. **If the patient is already in the clinic, use this opportunity to assess and administer any immunizations due**, such as influenza and pneumococcal immunizations for those at higher risk for complications (e.g., those with chronic conditions and adults 65 years of age and older).
- Prenatal visits remain a good opportunity to deliver Tdap and influenza vaccine. ACOG encourages health care practitioners to group components of care together (e.g., vaccinations, glucose screenings, etc.) and continue offering influenza vaccine to their unvaccinated patients, particularly pregnant women.

STRATEGIES TO MODIFY CLINIC OPERATIONS FOR DELIVERY OF PRIORITIZED CARE

Some of the following AAP strategies may also apply to adult practices:

- Separate well visits from sick visits. Schedule well visits such as prenatal visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon.
- Separate patients spatially (e.g., place sick patients in different areas of the clinic).
- Clinics with multiple practice sites may consider using one office location to see all well visits (staffed by those in higher risk categories) and another location for sick visits.
- Collaborate with nearby providers to identify separate locations for well visits.
- If available, deliver telehealth and utilize “drive through” dedicated COVID-19 testing sites.

NEXT VFA ORDERING PERIOD

In anticipation of reduced administration of adult vaccines, **the next ordering period for VFA vaccine will be open from May 4th-18th and all vaccines will be capped at 100 doses each.**

Steps to take before submitting your next order:

- As a team, review and discuss how the latest CDC guidelines may further change your practice's adult immunization services, especially for VFA-eligible patients, in the next several months.
- Take inventory of your current VFA vaccine stock
- Determine number of VFA doses your clinic needs through the next ordering period. **Important: Although you are ordering for approximately 8-week period (Quarter 3 ordering is expected to open in July), take into consideration your clinic's current patient volume.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [CDC Guidance for Adults](#)
- [AAP COVID-19 Clinical Guidance](#)



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- [ACP Statement on Non-urgent In-Person Medical Care](#)
- [AAFP Guidance for Family Physicians on Preventive and Non-urgent Care](#)
- ACOG [Guidance During Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) and [FAQs](#)

Any questions? Please contact us at my317vaccines@cdph.ca.gov



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