

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 26 August 2020

Response Date: 3 September 2020

Type of TA Request: Complex

Request:

The requestor asked for information and resources on how healthcare facilities are planning for seasonal influenza vaccination, including the possibility of also providing COVID-19 vaccination during flu season.

Response:

ASPR TRACIE reviewed existing resources on our [Novel Coronavirus Resources](#) page. We also reached out to several members of the ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert (SME) Cadre for information on their policies and procedures and conducted an open source search for additional information. Section I includes feedback from the SME Cadre. Section II provides additional resources.

Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Coronavirus Disease 2019 webpage](#) for the most up-to-date clinical guidance on COVID-19 outbreak management.

I. SME Cadre Feedback

SME Cadre Member #1:

- Our healthcare system is not expecting to give both the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to staff at the same time.
- We will conduct our flu vaccination plan for staff and complete it by November 1, 2020. We will then repeat that plan to do COVID-19 vaccination.
- This plan includes Occupational Health and other volunteer staff going to each unit/office as well as having people come to the Occupational Health office for vaccinations.
- Our healthcare system requires ALL EMPLOYEES get the flu vaccine. There has been no official announcement yet about the COVID-19 vaccine, but we are planning as though it will be mandated for employees as well.
- We have ordered the needed medical supplies to give both vaccinations to employees.
- It will be important for staff to report any side effects for follow up.
- We have some concern about whether the medication storage will really be -80 degrees. It could be a challenge to find enough refrigerators.
- Our concerns also include our hospitals and clinics being pressured to fill the void if our local government is not adequately prepared to give vaccinations to the public.

II. Additional Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics. (2020). [Preparing for Flu Season](#).

This webpage includes several resources to inform pediatric providers of their role in ensuring children receive seasonal influenza vaccine. Included are a link to an August 11, 2020 virtual town hall on preparing practices for the 2020-21 influenza season, answers to frequently asked questions, and considerations for those planning curbside or drive-through influenza vaccination clinics.

Blue Fish Pediatrics. (2020). [Flu Clinic Packet](#). Children's Memorial Hermann.

This document is an example of an information packet that one pediatrics practice provides to families regarding their 2020-2021 seasonal influenza clinics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). [Frequently Asked Influenza \(Flu\) Questions: 2020-2021 Season](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This webpage – updated as needed – offers answers to frequently asked questions from the public about the 2020-2021 influenza season. Information on COVID-19 and getting vaccinated during the pandemic is included.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). [Information for Health Care Professionals 2020-2021 Flu Season](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This webpage provides information to healthcare providers on preparing for the 2020-2021 influenza season.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). [Vaccination Guidance During a Pandemic](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

This webpage provides guidance to healthcare providers on provision of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic for vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks. It includes a section on considerations for influenza vaccination.

Community Care of North Carolina. (2020). [Navigating Coronavirus Series: Cold, Flu and COVID-19](#).

This recording is from an August 25, 2020 webinar on navigating influenza season during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The accompanying slide deck and transcript may also be downloaded from this page.

Government of Canada. (2020). [Guidance for Influenza Vaccine Delivery in the Presence of COVID-19](#).

This guidance identifies challenges to seasonal influenza vaccination posed by COVID-19 and potential adaptations to address them. While intended for the Canadian healthcare system, most of the considerations are also applicable in other countries.

Grohskopf, L., Alyanak, E., Broder, K., et al. (2020). [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices – United States, 2020-21 Influenza Season](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 69(8):1-24.

This report details the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for the 2020-21 influenza season. The authors discuss the similarity of symptoms and potential concurrent circulation of influenza and COVID-19 and the importance of early influenza vaccination in reducing the stress on the healthcare system during the pandemic. The report also includes a section on influenza vaccination of those with COVID-19.

Kraft, C. (2020). [Clinical Insights for Flu Vaccine Preparedness](#). Cardinal Health.

This article offers considerations for planning for seasonal influenza vaccination given the competing demands of COVID-19 on the healthcare workforce, facilities, and supply chain and the potential reluctance of individuals to seek routine and preventive care, including vaccination, in the midst of a pandemic.

My Kid's Pediatrics and Adolescent Care. (2020). [Drive In Flu Clinic](#).

This webpage is an example of information that one pediatrics practice provides to families about their drive-through vaccination clinic during the 2020-2021 influenza season.

National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit. (2020). [2020 National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit Virtual Meeting](#).

This page includes links to presentations from a virtual meeting with the theme, Influenza Prevention in the Era of COVID-19.

Pharmacy Times. (2020). [Prepping for Flu Season in 2020: Why the Vaccine is More Important Than Ever](#). Pharmacy Times.

This article reflects an interview with two pharmacists about preparing for the 2020-2021 influenza season and the role of pharmacy staff in public outreach regarding influenza vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Royal College of General Practitioners. (2020). [Delivering Mass Vaccinations During COVID-19: A Logistical Guide for General Practice](#).

While directed toward general practitioners in the United Kingdom involved in seasonal influenza and other mass vaccination campaigns, this guide includes practical considerations that are also applicable to U.S. healthcare providers preparing for seasonal influenza.

Servick, K. (2020). [How Will COVID-19 Affect the Coming Flu Season? Scientists Struggle for Clues](#). Science.

This article identifies some of the unknown elements for consideration while planning seasonal influenza campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds. (2020). [Flu Shot Clinic for Employers, Well Wisconsin Updates](#).

This webpage offers information to employers hosting influenza vaccination clinics for those covered by state health insurance programs. Included are three fact sheets: an overview of setting up an employer flu shot clinic, a summary of clinic options and safety precautions due to COVID-19, and information on selecting a clinic location.