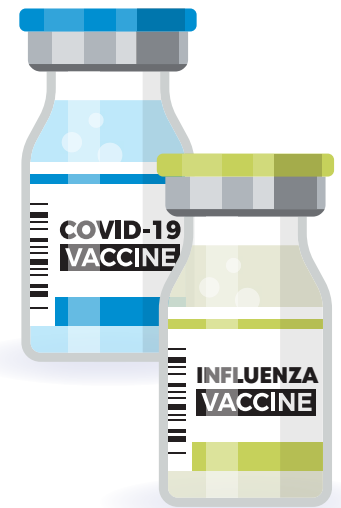


# Are Your Patients Unsure About Getting Both a COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine in the Same Visit?



The following talking points and answers can help you facilitate conversations with patients about coadministration.

## Why is it important to get a flu vaccine this year if there were low flu numbers last year?



It is true that there were low levels of flu reported last season. It is likely that the decline in flu activity is related to social distancing and other measures used to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including mask-wearing, staying home, increased handwashing, reduced travel, and increased ventilation in indoor spaces.

The 2020-2021 season also saw the highest number of flu vaccinations on record. It is expected that as the world reopens and these mandates ease, viruses like influenza will be spreading again. Flu activity can spike at any time without warning. A flu shot is one of the best ways to help protect yourself from the flu. Flu infection can be devastating, even deadly.<sup>1-4</sup>

## Will the flu be worse this season?



It is predicted that flu will spread this year. As with any year, it is important to be vaccinated against influenza. Complications from influenza can be serious, leading to hospitalization and even death.<sup>1,3</sup>

## Will COVID-19 and flu vaccines be less effective if they are given at the same time?



While no studies have been done to determine the effectiveness of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines when given together, immune response of other vaccines generally has not been affected when given simultaneously.<sup>5</sup>

## Is it safe to receive a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and a seasonal flu vaccine?



Updated guidance from the CDC now says that COVID-19 vaccines may be given at the same time as other vaccines, including flu shots. In this case, providers should be aware of potential reactogenicity, including local reactions, and therefore administer each vaccine in different limbs, if possible.<sup>5,6</sup>

## Will my side effects be worse if I receive a flu shot at the same time as my COVID-19 vaccine?



COVID-19 vaccines and flu shots have similar side effects, and providers should be aware of the potential for increased reactogenicity. Current guidance suggests using different limbs for the injections if administering simultaneously.<sup>5</sup>

## Are there other vaccines I need this season?



While you're here today, I can check your vaccination record to see if you're up to date on your vaccinations. If you're overdue for any vaccines, we can make sure you get them now.

No data are yet available, but studies are underway or in development concerning coadministration of US-authorized or approved COVID-19 and influenza vaccines. In addition, always verify eligibility for influenza and COVID-19 vaccines. Providers should be aware of the potential for increased reactogenicity with coadministration and should consult CDC guidance for updates.<sup>5</sup>



**Scan this QR code for tools and resources to help your immunization efforts, or visit [VaccineShoppe.com](https://www.vaccineshoppe.com)<sup>®</sup> or call 1-800-VACCINE (1-800-822-2463).**

**References:** **1.** 2020-2021 Flu season summary. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 22, 2021. Accessed August 27, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2020-2021.htm> **2.** Frequently asked influenza (flu) questions: 2021-2022 season. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. September 22, 2021. Accessed September 27, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2021-2022.htm> **3.** Estimated influenza illnesses, medical visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in the United States—2018-2019 influenza season. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. January 8, 2020. Accessed July 27, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/2018-2019.html> **4.** What are the benefits of flu vaccination? Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. August 26, 2021. Accessed September 22, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/vaccine-benefits.htm> **5.** Interim clinical considerations for use of COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. September 15, 2021. Accessed September 16, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.htm> **6.** Administer the vaccine(s). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. September 8, 2021. Accessed September 17, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/administer-vaccines.html>