

Guidance for Maintaining Adult Immunizations and Immunizations for Pregnant Women During COVID-19 Pandemic

Maintaining Adult Immunizations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program (LAC DPH VPDCP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html> recommend the following the following actions.

Delivery of all vaccinations to adults should be postponed except for the following situations:

- 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.
- 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.
- If the patient is already in the clinic, 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).
- A pregnant woman should be vaccinated against pertussis (whooping cough) and influenza during each pregnancy to protect herself and her baby.

Patients, including those who are or who are intending to become pregnant, can access this assessment tool <https://www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/> to determine in consultation with their provider, which immunizations they might need.

Maintaining Immunizations for Pregnant Women

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program (LAC DPH VPDC) recommend:

- Delivery of recommended immunizations to pregnant women should be provided wherever possible as part of routine prenatal care and should not be deferred or canceled.
- Healthcare providers are encouraged to balance the benefit of pregnant women attending a visit and receiving necessary immunizations with the risk of exposure to others with potential contagious diseases.
- A pregnant woman should be vaccinated against pertussis (whooping cough) and influenza (flu) during each pregnancy to protect herself and her baby, with immunity for the first few months of life.

Tdap: The CDC recommends getting a whooping cough shot during the 27th through 36th week of each pregnancy, preferably during the early part of this time period.

Influenza: Because pregnant women are at increased risk for complications from influenza, the CDC recommends that a pregnant woman receive a flu shot anytime during each pregnancy.

Some women may need other vaccines before, during, or after they become pregnant. For example, if a pregnant woman has is at risk for hepatitis B, works in a laboratory, or is planning on international travel she should talk to her health care professional. Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/vacc-during-after.html> for more information.

Delivery of Immunizations Should be Both Safe and Necessary

Practices affected by COVID-19 may consider several adjustments to their usual clinical operations for the delivery immunizations. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>

Consider and adhere to guidance for modifications to the structure of your clinic schedule and physical space:

- Only conduct well visits for those who require immunizations.
- Schedule well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon.
- Separate patients spatially, such as by placing patients with sick visits in different areas of the clinic or another location from patients with well visits.
- Collaborate with providers in the community to identify separate locations for holding well visits.

California's public health officials released guidance on April 1, 2020 on the use of cloth face coverings to protect against COVID-19 for Californians who must leave their homes to conduct essential activities. The use of cloth face coverings could reduce the transmission of COVID-19 by individuals who do not have symptoms and may reinforce physical distancing. A link to the new guidance can be found at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Face-Coverings-Guidance.aspx>.

- Providers may want to advise all patients to adhere to guidance on the use of cloth face covering as part of their visit.

Immunization Resources

Patients may be referred to the following resources for immunizations in Los Angeles County but should call first to confirm if they are eligible and availability of services:

- <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chs/phcenters.htm>
- http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/IZclinics/PROVIDERS_REFERAL_LIST_06_07_2018.pdf
- or dial 2-1-1 (Los Angeles County Information Line).

More Information

County of Los Angeles and LAC DPH VPDCP
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/>

CDC Guidance for Adults and Children
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/preparedness-checklists.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pediatric-hcp.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/covid-19-clinical-guidance-q-a/>

ACP Statement on Non-Urgent In-Person Medical Care

https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/statement_on_non_urgent_in-person_medical_care_2020.pdf

AAFP Guidance for Family Physicians on Preventative and Non-Urgent Care

https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/patient_care/public_health/AAFP-COVID-Non-Urgent-Care-Statement.pdf

AGOG Guidance During Novel Coronavirus and FAQs

<https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/03/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/physician-faqs/covid-19-faqs-for-ob-gyns-obstetrics>

LAC DPH VPDC and the CDC are monitoring the situation and will continue to provide guidance. Thank you for your commitment to keeping families and children healthy and safe.