

**TO:** Vermont Health Care Providers and Health Care Facilities  
**FROM:** Monica Ogelby, RN, MSN, Immunization Program Manager

### **Coadministration of COVID-19 Vaccine and Flu Vaccine**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The 2021–22 influenza season is expected to coincide with continued circulation of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Influenza vaccination of persons aged  $\geq 6$  months to reduce prevalence of influenza illness will reduce symptoms that might be confused with those of COVID-19. Prevention of and reduction in the severity of influenza illness and reduction of outpatient visits, hospitalizations, and intensive care unit admissions through influenza vaccination also could alleviate stress on the health care system.

Current guidance for the use of COVID-19 vaccines indicates that these vaccines can be coadministered with other vaccines, including influenza vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.

Extensive research on the simultaneous administration of the most widely used live and inactivated vaccines has demonstrated seroconversion rates and rates for adverse reactions similar to those observed when the vaccines are administered separately.

#### **REQUESTED ACTION:**

It is best practice to administer both the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines to eligible individuals unless otherwise contraindicated by a healthcare provider.

Best practices for administering more than one vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines and influenza vaccines, also include:

- When preparing more than one vaccine, label each with the name and dosage (amount) of vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Whenever possible, inject vaccines into different limbs. If injecting multiple vaccines in the same limb, separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, so that any local reactions can be differentiated.
- Inject vaccines without aspiration since aspiration is not recommended before administering a vaccine.
- COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines.
- Vaccines administered at the same visit should be given at different sites (separated by an inch or more, if possible).

Providers should consult current COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and guidance for up-to-date information. ACIP recommendations for the use of COVID-19 vaccines are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>. Interim clinical guidance for the use of COVID-19 vaccines is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>. These pages should be checked periodically for updated information.

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or [vthan@vermont.gov](mailto:vthan@vermont.gov).

**HAN Message Type Definitions**

*Health Alert:* Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

*Health Advisory:* Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

*Health Update:* Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

*Info Service Message:* Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.