

Influenza vaccination during COVID-19

Now more than ever, it is important to maintain high vaccination coverage levels to prevent outbreaks of influenza in the community.

Immunisation providers should continue to offer immunisation services with enhanced infection control measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to your staff and patients. This checklist recommends actions to minimise risk, based on current advice.

Your communications

Staff:

- Remind staff that if they are unwell they must not attend work
- Discuss this check list with all staff, so that everyone is aware of your enhanced infection control measures

Patients – send immunisation reminders to eligible patients and include advice:

- To call in advance if they are not feeling well
- About how a patient contacts you for a phone assessment or to re-schedule the appointment, if required
- Not to arrive in advance of their appointment (to minimise the number of people that are in the clinic)

Your vaccinations

There are no additional personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements for routine immunisations. Take standard and transmission-based precautions as appropriate.

- Minimise physical contact with patient record documents
- Use a separate supply of pens for patients to sign their consent form, cleaning pens appropriately between use.
- Display one laminated IMMUNISATION CHECKLIST in the queuing area (if not possible provide a single-use pre-immunisation checklist for each client)

Protection measures

- Ensure that hand hygiene is performed between each patient
- Use PPE when vaccinating patients with symptoms consistent with coronavirus where there is a much higher risk of transmission (provided they are well enough to be vaccinated).

Maintain social distancing as far as possible

- Limit the vaccine process to one adult with the child/minor being vaccinated (unless there are extenuating circumstances)
- Consider the size of the clinic area and apply the principles of distancing to determine the number of patients that can attend at any one time
- Consider a separate room for clients to wait post vaccination

Your clinic set-up

Posters

- Display COVID ALERT posters outside the vaccination room and in an area where patients can see it while waiting for their appointment.
- Display SOCIAL DISTANCING posters in an area where patients can see it

Make alcohol hand rub or hand washing facilities available

- Display HAND WASHING posters
- Direct all patients to wash/sanitise hands before and after vaccination

Patient separation and movement

- Have a plan to handle suspected exposure – how will you keep well patients separated from patients who are suspected of exposure to COVID-19?
- Establish your process to assess each patient as they arrive for their vaccination, before they enter the practice.
- Minimise patient movement through the clinic as much as possible
- Designate specific times throughout the week for vaccination clinics to ensure that only well patients are in the clinic during those times
- Use alternative entrance/exit (if available) to avoid patients walking through the administration areas and waiting rooms

Set up seating and standing queuing areas for social distancing

- If standing, mark each standing position with an 'X'.
- If seated, chairs must be spaced; sit patients 1.5 metres from administration staff at desks and from other patients and nurses
- Make a staff member available to monitor queueing. This is important.
- Consider alternative options to your waiting room – appointment system for vaccinations; families waiting outside (if safe to do so) or in their cars before and after vaccination (as long as they can be monitored for an adverse event following immunisation); or being phoned when it's time to come into the clinic

Enhanced infection controls in your clinic

- Clean chairs between use
- Remove all toys and magazines from your waiting room
- Ensure administration, clinical and patient areas are wiped down frequently (and between patient encounters) using a sodium hyperchlorite based solution.

Click these links for more information on:

[Social distancing guidelines](#)

[COVID 19 health posters](#)

[Cleaning in the workplace](#)

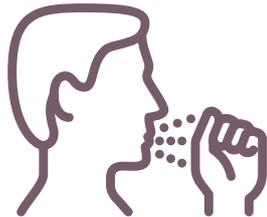
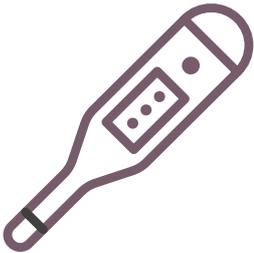
[Using personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)

[Dept Health; COVID-19 advice for health sector](#)



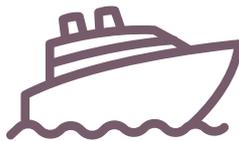
IMMUNISATION
COALITION

COVID-19 ALERT



If you have any of these symptoms:

- fever
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath



And,

- have travelled in the last 14 days



Or,

- had contact with someone who is suspected of having coronavirus.



DO NOT ENTER THE ROOM

The nurse will come out of the room and speak to you to offer advice

This will help to protect your health and safety and the health of others.

IMMUNISATION CHECKLIST



Please wash your hands BEFORE and AFTER your vaccination today.



Please do not place anything on tables or benches, including: coffee cups, lanyards, wallets, glasses, phones, pens etc

PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

Are you allergic to eggs of chicken feathers?

Are you pregnant?

Have you EVER received an influenza vaccine before?

Have you ever had an allergic reaction to any vaccination?

Are you aboriginal or Torres Strait islander?

KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE.

Help stop the spread of coronavirus by keeping your distance. Remember, don't shake hands or exchange physical greetings. Wherever possible stay 1.5 metres apart and practise good hand hygiene, especially after being in public places.

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.

Advice regarding **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** will change regularly. Keep up to date.

Visit **[health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)**



Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

GOOD HYGIENE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to prevent passing on germs. Dry your hands.

**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP
THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.**

For more information about **Coronavirus
(COVID-19)** visit **health.gov.au**



Australian Government