Safe Vaccine Administration during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Using infection-prevention practices with all patients is especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination providers should adhere to the guidance below:

**Staff personal infection prevention and control procedures**

- Wear a **medical facemask** at all times.
- Conduct recommended **hand hygiene** and **cleaning of the environment** between all patient appointments.
- Use **eye protection** based on level of community transmission:
  - **Moderate to substantial**: Healthcare providers *should* wear eye protection given the increased likelihood of encountering asymptomatic COVID-19 patients.
  - **Minimal to none**: Universal eye protection is considered *optional*, unless otherwise indicated as a part of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee’s (HICPAC’s) standard precautions.
- Wear gloves when administering **intranasal or oral vaccines**. Gloves should be changed with each patient in addition to performing hand hygiene. Administration of these vaccines is not considered an aerosol-generating procedure and thus the use of an N95 or higher-level respirator is not necessarily required.
- If gloves are also worn when administering **intramuscular or subcutaneous vaccines**, they should also be changed with each patient in addition to performing hand hygiene.

**Other facility-level procedures to minimize exposure among patients**

- Screen patients for COVID-19 symptoms and their contact with COVID-19, before and upon arrival.
- Isolate any symptomatic patients as soon as possible.
- Limit and monitor points of entry to the facility and install barriers to limit contact with patients at triage.
- Implement policies for the use of a cloth face covering in persons over the age of 2 years (if tolerated).
- Promote adherence to respiratory hygiene, cough etiquette, and hand hygiene among everyone in the facility.
- Separate sick patients from well patients by scheduling these visits during different times of the day.
- Ask patients to remain outside until they are called into the facility, if possible.
- Ensure that physical-distancing measures, with separation of at least 6 feet between patients and visitors, are maintained during all aspects of the visit, including check-in, checkout, screening procedures, and post-vaccination monitoring, using strategies such as physical barriers, signs, ropes, and floor markings.
- Utilize electronic communications as much as possible (e.g., filling out needed paperwork online in advance) to minimize time in the office as well as reuse of materials (e.g., clipboards, pens).

**Resources:**

1. CDC’s Interim Guidance for Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic (online resource):
   - [cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html)
2. Louisiana Immunization Program’s resources on Routine Vaccination During the Pandemic (online resource):
   - [ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3955](http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3955)
3. CDC’s Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Information for Healthcare Professionals (online resource):

For more information or if you have questions with this guidance, please contact your regional immunization consultant or the Immunization Program main office at 504-568-2600.

*Source: CDC*