Providing Routine Immunizations during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) encourages healthcare providers to continue vaccinating patients whenever possible. Slowing or stopping access to immunizations increases our risk for vaccine-preventable diseases. Providers should review strategies to continue timely vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Clinics Working with Children

Use strategies to separate well visits from sick. Examples include:

- Scheduling well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon.
- Separating patients spatially, such as by placing patients with sick visits in different areas of the clinic or another location from patients with well visits.

If a practice can provide only limited well child visits, providers are encouraged to prioritize newborn care and vaccination of infants and young children (through 24 months of age) when possible.

Clinics Working with Adults

Delivery of some clinical preventive services for adults are being postponed or delivered through other means such as telehealth. Immunizations require in-person encounters and should be administered whenever:

- An in-person visit must be scheduled for some other purpose and the vaccine can be administered during that visit; or
- An individual patient and their clinician believe that there is a compelling need to receive the vaccine based on an assessment that the potential benefit outweighs the risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Additional Resources

- NJDOH Information on COVID-19
- Information for Pediatric Healthcare Providers (CDC)
- Resources for Hospitals and Healthcare Professionals Preparing for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 (CDC)