

## Infection Prevention & Control for Immunizers

**All individuals presenting for influenza vaccine should be screened for illness.**

### Staff

- staff who are behind a barrier do not need to use PPE, except for protection between co-workers behind the barrier
- PPE including medical mask, eye protection, gown and gloves should be immediately available to all personnel who need to provide first aid or respond to a health emergency

### Mask

- vaccinators should wear a medical mask and eye
- staff and volunteers who are able to maintain a two-metre physical distance or will have only transitory closer contact (such as walking by) should wear a medical mask
- PPE may be used for the full duration of a shift
  - the same mask and eye protection can be worn for an extended period but should be replaced after a break
  - Full face shields should be removed (to be reprocessed or disposed of as per equipment instructions)
  - soiled, wet or damaged masks should be replaced

### Gloves

- vaccinators need not wear gloves except when administering intranasal influenza vaccine because of an increased likelihood of contact with a client's mucous membranes and bodily fluids during these procedures
- gloves should be changed between clients and hand hygiene performed after gloves are removed
- precautions for aerosol-generating procedures are not necessary for administration of nasal or oral vaccines

When immunization is provided during another health care visit (for example, primary care visit, home care or while in hospital), it is anticipated that the health care professional will already be using PPE appropriate for the situation..

### Clients and their accompanying persons

- Clients and their accompanying persons are asked to wear a non-medical mask or face covering.
- This recommendation may be waived for young children for whom mask use is problematic.
- Non-medical masks or face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of two years, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unable to remove the mask without assistance.



Health and Wellness

## Clinic set up and immunization process

The following are suggestions for modifying the clinic set up and immunization process:

- assessing the physical suitability of the site, including the adequacy of ventilation; however, it is appreciated that ideal sites are not always available
- considering the size of the site, physical distancing requirements, and jurisdictional restrictions on the size of gatherings when determining the number of clients that can be scheduled in a given time period
- providing extra clinic staff and volunteers as needed
  - such as for
    - monitoring traffic flow and waiting areas
    - screening
    - assistance with registration and consent processes
    - cleaning
- using an appointment system (for example, online or through a call centre) to make
  - appointments
  - collecting registration information
  - conduct pre-clinic wellness screening
- minimizing the number of persons coming to the appointment
  - for example, only the client plus a caregiver if necessary; only bringing children if they are being immunized
- instructing clients to wear accessible clothing (for example, short sleeves) to minimize the need for removal of clothing and possibly the mask to gain access to the arm, and to bring a non-medical mask to wear at the clinic
- adjusting consent and recording processes to reduce contact, making them paperless if possible
  - having staff complete information forms on behalf of clients
  - if a signature is needed for consent, having each client use a separate pen and cleaning pens between use
- minimizing movement through the clinic to avoid clients walking through administrative areas
  - for example, by using a dedicated entrance/exit (where available) and establishing one-way traffic flow
- ensuring that the [cold chain](#) is maintained in all settings including outreach and mobile clinics and outdoor clinics



**Health and Wellness**

- ensuring that clients can be monitored for the recommended observation period following immunization in all settings
  - including mobile and drive-through clinics
- ensuring that the supplies necessary to manage anaphylaxis are readily available
- maintaining a list of staff and clients attending each clinic to facilitate contact tracing if needed