

## **GUIDANCE FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND IMMUNIZATION CLINICS**

### **Administration of vaccine**

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is adhering to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for use of PPE for immunizations.

Ensure all staff adhere to the following infection prevention and control procedures:

- Follow Standard Precautions, which includes guidance for hand hygiene and cleaning the environment between patients. According to OSHA, gloves are not necessary when administering vaccines unless the person administering has open lesions on their hands.\*
  - Hand sanitizer readily available.
  - Hand hygiene to be performed before and after each immunization client.
- N95 mask if fit tested, if not fit tested, wear a surgical mask and full face shield.
- Healthcare personnel should wear eye protection given the increased likelihood of encountering asymptomatic COVID-19 patients.
- Additional considerations for vaccine administration:
  - Intranasal or oral vaccines:
    - Healthcare personnel should wear gloves when administering intranasal or oral vaccines because of the increased likelihood of coming into contact with a patient's mucous membranes and body fluids. Gloves should be changed between patients 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 recommended.
- Ensure physical distancing by implementing strategies, such as:
  - Separating sick from well patients by scheduling these visits during different times of the day (e.g., well visits in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon), placing patients with sick visits in different areas of the facility, or scheduling patients with sick visits in a different location from well visits (when available).
  - Reduce crowding in waiting areas by asking patients to remain outside (e.g., stay in their vehicles, if applicable) until they are called into the facility for their appointment.

- 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 postvaccination 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).

#### Patient receiving vaccination

- Persons over the age of two years will wear approved mask unless underlying health conditions prevent mask use.
- Persons who are ill and/or currently in isolation or quarantine should not attend vaccination clinics until released from isolation or quarantine.

\*\*Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations **do not** require **gloves** to be worn when administering intramuscular or subcutaneous vaccine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/administration.html>

#### References:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/administration.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities/vaccination-clinic-supply-checklist.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pandemic-guidance/index.html>