



Consonus is now accepting orders for Influenza vaccine, and we are requesting order forms be returned by **September 20th**. We anticipate we will start receiving vaccine and distributing at the end of September and throughout October. Our best information to date does not suggest there will be a shortage of product.

Q: What is the expected timing of onset and peak of influenza activity this year?

A: The timing of Flu is unpredictable and varies from season to season. The timing and onset can also vary geographically. In the US, localized areas of increased activity occur as early as October. Historically the peak activity occurs December through February.

Q: What is the guidance for the timing of influenza vaccine this year?

A: Ideally flu vaccine should be offered by the end of October for all persons. Vaccinations should continue throughout the season, as long as influenza viruses are circulating, and unexpired vaccine is available.

Q: Can COVID-19 vaccines be co-administered at the same time as Influenza vaccine?

A: Yes! The CDC Interim Clinical Considerations for use of COVID-19 vaccines state that COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines.



Vaccines administered at the same visit should be given at different sites (separated by an inch or more). If COVID-19 vaccines are given with vaccines that might be more likely to cause a local reaction (such as High Dose Influenza vaccines), administer in separate limbs, if feasible. The deltoid is the preferred site, however, the anterolateral thigh may be used as an alternate site.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccination guidance and coadministration with other vaccines, please refer to the [CDC guidance](#).

Q: [What influenza vaccine should those 65 years and older receive?](#)

A: ACIP and CDC make no preferential recommendation for any one vaccine for any age group, but some studies show improved clinical outcomes with the High Dose vaccine for those over 65 years old. Consonus will have the options below available for order.

65 +

[Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine VIAL/Prefilled SYRINGE:](#)

Can be used in all patient populations. It is the Consonus recommended option for staff and patients younger than 65 years old.

[High-Dose Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine Prefilled SYRINGE](#)

Designed specifically for patients 65 years and older. High-dose inactivated influenza vaccine contains 4 times the hemagglutinin antigen per strain of influenza virus compared with the standard-dose inactivated influenza vaccine. This may lower the risk of Influenza hospital admission compared with people in that age group that got the standard dose.

Q: [What can impact the effectiveness of Influenza vaccine?](#)

A: Vaccine effectiveness can vary depending on the season, predominant viruses, degree of match between circulating virus, and age and immunity of the recipient. In a season during which most circulating viruses are similar to those represented in the vaccine, we can expect 40%-60% effectiveness overall.

Q: [Is it still worth getting vaccinated if we are in a season of low overall effectiveness?](#)

A: Yes!! The CDC estimates overall influenza burden and vaccine effectiveness after each season. The estimated vaccine effectiveness for 2019-20 was 39% overall. Nearly 52% of the US population got a flu vaccine during this season, and this [prevented](#) an estimated:



7.5 million flu illnesses

105,000

flu hospitalizations



6,300 flu deaths.

Equivalent to saying about
17 lives per day over the course of a year!