

Mitigating Risks at Multi-Product Immunization Clinics

October 2022



Health

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/planning-immunization-clinics-covid-19-vaccines.html>

Multi-product immunization clinics

Multi-product immunization clinics are clinics in which multiple vaccine products are available at the same location. The types of multi-product clinics available to the public will vary by community. When planning the availability of vaccines for a community or region, consider the advantages and challenges of multi-product clinics and the various ways multi-product immunization clinics can be organized.

Advantages

- More convenient for the public
- May increase uptake for all vaccines being offered
- Requires fewer health human resources than separate clinics

Challenges

- The operation of each clinic is more logistically complex
- Increased risk of administration errors
- Potential health consequences for the individual
- Risk of reducing public confidence in mass vaccination campaigns and vaccination more broadly
- Multiple vaccination campaigns at the same site may lead to public confusion

Planning considerations

At multi-product immunization clinics, care must be taken to ensure that each client receives the appropriate product(s). Clinic planning should consider precautions that can be taken through clinic design and administrative controls such as policies and procedures.

Clinic design

- Colour code all items associated with each vaccine being administered, including consent forms, labels for vials and syringes, trays, line-up area, etc. Examples include the following:
- If using pre-draw areas; separate dilution and drawing-up stations for different products in distinct areas of the clinic.
- For table top clinics;

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- Bring only one product to the table at a time and draw-up, label and set aside.
- Have clearly marked and color-coded trays for products.
- Label syringes with corresponding colors.
- Laminated copies of quick reference guides or product comparison charts in drawing-up stations. For products with similar packaging, consider labeling or colour coding the packaging/vials/syringes to minimize confusion.
- Vaccines must be transferred to the vaccination area in colour coded clearly labelled bags/containers.

Immunization processes for concomitant administration of Covid-19 and other vaccine(s)

- Ensure that informed consent has been attained for each vaccine.
- Provide the individual with a corresponding sticker/highlighter on the consent form that indicates which vaccine(s) they are receiving
- If the same immunizer is giving more than one vaccine, establish a policy such that immunizers always give the vaccines in the same order (e.g., COVID-19 vaccine is given first and in the left arm, influenza vaccine is given second and in the right arm).
- Record the site of administration of each vaccine, so that if an injection site reaction occurs, the associated vaccine can be identified.

Before vaccine administration

Before vaccine administration the immunizer should confirm:

- that they have the correct consent form for the client (e.g., by requesting the client's name and date of birth),
- if there are more than one consent forms for one person, both must be reviewed.
- they have the corresponding product on the consent and on the table/ cart. i.e; green highlight is bivalent, yellow is flu.
- by repeating to the client “so today you are receiving the bivalent vaccine booster and the annual flu vaccine”
- when selecting vaccine products immunizers are reminded:
 - **Read the carton and vial label directly** to ensure they have correctly identified the product.
 - Often immunizers/sites appear to use the **vial cap colour** as the key identifier to differentiate product. This is not ideal as the vial cap is removed prior to first administration.
 - For example: both SPIKEVAX™ 0.1 mg/mL booster/peds presentation and SPIKEVAX™ Bivalent have a royal blue cap. Both are 0.1 mg/mL, but the **labels** on the vials are different. **SPIKEVAX™ Bivalent has a green accent colour on the borders and says ‘0 (Zero) / O (Omicron)’ or ‘0 / O’**
- conduct a pre-immunization assessment, pursuant to relevant jurisdictional professional regulations and policies, which may include determining: the client's health status, the client's understanding of the information provided at registration and ability to provide informed consent,

- confirmation that there are no contraindications/precautions to immunization (including for the second dose, if there were any serious adverse effects after the first dose that would require assessment before receiving the second dose), and answering any remaining questions the client may have.
- Whenever possible, multiple people should not present to one immunizer at the same time. If this is unavoidable (ie: a parent with 2 young children), each consent form needs to be reviewed separately and the immunization process completed in full before moving on to the next client.

Administrative controls to prevent errors

- Provide comprehensive staff training and refreshers as needed, including orientation and educational materials and overviews and touch bases before the start of each clinic.
- Optimize the use of experienced staff, especially in the early days of the campaign.
 - Pair new immunizers with more experienced immunizers.
 - If immunizers are to be giving more than one product, use most experienced immunizers for this process.
- Ensure a clinic lead or lead nurse is available to respond to staff questions at all times during the shift. Encourage questions and clarifications.
- Keep diluting/drawing up areas completely separate for each product and dosage. Assign staff to dilute and draw up only one product and one dosage per shift, if possible.
- Accountability checks should be in place to ensure staff are aware of and follow all vaccine administration policies and procedures, such as signing a daily “quality assurance” check list that summarizes important information, any recent changes in processes, and available resources and assistance.
- Do not give through-put goals which could result in immunizers rushing the administration process or taking short-cuts. Ensure immunizers have the adequate time required based on the amount of consents that need to be reviewed and for products being drawn up and/or administered.
- Provide job-aids for quick reference such as a clear table showing vaccines available at the clinic, eligibility criteria, brand name/trade name of each product and dosages, colour-coding used at the clinic, and a glossary of terms.
- Develop policies and procedures to manage errors and actively encourage reporting of errors or near-errors so that:
 - Appropriate client follow-up can be initiated as needed.
 - Improvements to processes, policies and procedures can be made.
 - These instances can be used as learning opportunities for staff.