



Immunization FAQs

Influenza/Flu FAQs

- Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness that spreads around the United States annually.
- Flu season occurs from October to May.
- The flu is most commonly spread through droplets from coughing and sneezing in close contact.
- Receiving the live flu vaccine can help prevent you from contracting influenza, make symptoms less severe if you do contract the virus, and help prevent you from spreading the virus to others.

Influenza Vaccine (Flu Shot)

- The two influenza vaccines available are:
 - Quadrivalent
 - High Dose-the recommended flu vaccine for patients age 65 and older

Shingles FAQs

- Shingles is a painful skin rash that often causes blisters.
- Receiving the shingles vaccine can prevent occurrences of shingles and has an efficiency rate of 90%.

Shingrix (Shingles Vaccine)

- The shingrix vaccine is a two-dose series.
- The second dose of the vaccine is given between 2 to 6 months after the first dose.
- This vaccine is recommended for patients 50 years and older.

Pneumococcal Disease (Pneumonia) FAQs

- Pneumococcal disease is caused by bacteria spread from close contact with others.
- It can cause ear infections and other severe infections such as pneumonia in the lungs, bacteremia in the blood, and meningitis in the brain and spinal cord.

Pneumococcal Vaccine (Pneumonia Shot)

- The two vaccines available are PCV13 (Pneumovax) and PPSV23 (Pneumovax).
- These vaccines are recommended for patients age 65 and older.
- Pnevnar is the initial vaccine given and Pneumovax should be given within one year from the date of the Pnevnar vaccine.

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) FAQs

- The Tdap vaccine can prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough.)
- Diphtheria and pertussis spread from person to person.

Tdap Vaccine

- Tdap is only for children 7 years and older, adolescents, and adults.
- Adolescents should receive a single dose of Tdap, preferably at age 11 or 12 years.
- Pregnant women should get a dose of Tdap during every pregnancy, to protect the newborn from pertussis.