# Immunization question of the day

*Educate your team about immunizations by featuring an* ***immunization question of the day****. Below are ready-to-use questions that you and your team can display on an office wall or in the break room. Make sure to post each question one at a time in a common place where all team members will see it. To ensure the question is rotated on a daily or weekly basis, designate a team member each month who will be responsible for posting new questions. To better engage the team, consider folding each card on the dotted line and hiding the answer. Team members can then spend time thinking about the question and then unveiling the answer when they are ready.*

*Feel free to add to this list or make your own question of the day by going to* [*Ask the Expert*](http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/) *on the Immunization Action Coalition’s website or www.vaccines.org. Ask each of your team members to find and contribute a few of their own questions. This will engage them and increase their knowledge as they search for challenging questions to stump their colleagues. Grow enthusiasm by voting on which question was the best or celebrating the person who gets the answer right most often! The questions of the day can be saved and used for orientation of new staff.*

Adapted from examples provided courtesy of the Immunization Action Coalition.

Source: *AMA. Practice transformation series: implementing a team-based adult immunization program. 2017.*

# Immunization question of the day:

How long can someone be contagious with influenza before symptoms of infection appear?

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ANSWER: 24-48 hours

# Immunization question of the day:

Why is herd immunity important?

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ANSWER: Herd immunity occurs when a community is protected from an outbreak because enough members of the community have been vaccinated. This means that even people who are not vaccinated will be protected by others in the community who are vaccinated. This only works when a critical majority of people are vaccinated. Herd immunity is an important way to provide immunity to individuals who cannot receive certain vaccines (e.g., infants, pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals).

# Immunization question of the day:

How do we know what vaccines are due for which patients and how often?

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ANSWER: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) publish a vaccination schedule based on patient age and risk for disease. The schedule is updated every year and is available at https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/.

# Immunization question of the day:

What is the most common side effect of vaccinations?

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ANSWER: A sore arm

# Immunization question of the day:

Can a flu shot give you the flu?

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ANSWER: No. However, it does not protect against the common cold. Some people can mistake cold symptoms with those of the flu. As a result, they may mistakenly believe their symptoms are related to getting the flu shot.

# Immunization question of the day:

Can someone with influenza infect another person even if they have no symptoms or only mild symptoms?

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ANSWER: Yes

# Immunization question of the day:

Can you give a vaccine to a patient who has a cold?

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ANSWER: Yes

# Immunization question of the day:

Are we required by law to provide patients with a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) prior to vaccination?

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ANSWER: Yes

# Immunization question of the day:

How do we report adverse events?

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ANSWER: Adverse events can be reported online, via fax, or through the mail. We are required to report adverse events from vaccines to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The website is https://vaers.hhs.gov.

# Immunization question of the day:

Can we administer vaccines that have been exposed to the wrong temperatures during storage?

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ANSWER: No

# Immunization question of the day:

Which vaccines must be stored in the freezer?

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ANSWER: Varicella and Zoster

# Immunization question of the day:

Is it okay to use the same refrigerator for vaccines and food?

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ANSWER: No

# Immunization question of the day:

What should be documented when giving a vaccine?

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ANSWER:

Vaccine manufacturer

Vaccine lot number

Vaccine administration date

Name, office address and title of healthcare provider administering the vaccine

Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) edition date

Date the VIS is given to the patient or guardian

# Immunization question of the day:

What is the maximum number of PPSV23 (Pneumovax®) doses that any one person can receive in a lifetime?

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ANSWER: 3

Children and adults younger than age 65 who are at highest risk for serious pneumococcal infection or likely to have a rapid decline in antibody levels (due to functional or anatomic asplenia, immunocompromising conditions, solid organ transplantation, chronic kidney disease or nephrotic syndrome) should get two doses of PPSV23 five years apart, with a third dose after they turn age 65 (if at least five years have passed since the last dose). Children and adults younger than age 65 who do not fall into this highest risk category but still have an increased risk for pneumococcal infection (due to chronic heart disease, chronic lung disease, smoking, diabetes or chronic liver disease) should get a single dose of PPSV23 before age 65, and a single dose after age 65. Adults with no risk factors should get one dose at age 65.

Thus, depending on risk and age at vaccination, a person age 65 or older may have received one, two or three doses of PPSV23. You can learn more at https://www.vaccines.gov/diseases/pneumonia/index.html.

# Immunization question of the day:

Which pneumonia vaccine do I give first to a person who is age 65?

(Hint: 13 comes before 23)

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ANSWER: PCV13 (Prevnar®)

# Immunization question of the day:

If I give PCV13 (Prevnar®) at age 65, when do I give PPSV23 (Pneumovax®)?

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ANSWER: 1 year later

# Immunization question of the day:

If someone is age 67 and already received PPSV23 (Pneumovax®) at age 65, when do I give PCV13 (Prevnar®)?

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ANSWER: You can give it now. That patient will never receive either vaccine again.

# Immunization question of the day:

If someone receives PCV13 (Prevnar®) at age 65 and then 1 year later receives PPSV23 (Pneumovax®), will they ever receive an additional pneumonia vaccine?

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ANSWER: No

# Immunization question of the day:

If a patient says they never had chickenpox, is the shingles vaccine recommended at age 60?

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# ANSWER: Yes. Many people don’t remember having chickenpox but are infected with the Varicella virus. Ordering titers to confirm previous infection is not recommended.