Flu vaccination is an essential public health tool\textsuperscript{1-4}

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented the healthcare system with unprecedented challenges. A second wave of COVID-19 may hit this fall during the influenza season, which could possibly result in an even worse public health crisis.\textsuperscript{1}

Vaccination against influenza will be a critical public health tool during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to protect against influenza and minimize the influenza burden to the healthcare system, as well as helping to preserve healthcare system capacity for patients with COVID-19 or other serious illnesses.\textsuperscript{1,2,5,6}

That’s why it may be important to start thinking differently about solutions to work within COVID-19 mitigation measures, such as social distancing with the goal of safely and efficiently getting more people immunized against the flu than ever before, because it’s essential to public health.\textsuperscript{1,3,4,5-7}
Preparing for the upcoming flu season

First, a few questions to think about:

1. **Is your space able to be configured to meet social distancing guidelines?**
2. **Will your clinic need to shift to a non-traditional approach to flu vaccination (eg, drive-thru, parking lot)?**
3. **How will you educate patients on the importance of flu vaccination and ensure they get vaccinated?**

Consider these actions as you begin to prepare your flu immunization clinics:

**SAFETY FIRST**
- Align on recommended infection-control measures
- Implement safety protocols
- Maintain physical distancing and monitor office traffic flow
- Stress frequent hand washing
- Provide hand sanitizer
- Have patients and staff wear protective masks

**STAFF IS ESSENTIAL**
- Monitor staff health and well-being; stay home if unwell
- Ensure adequate staffing is available
- Provide access to protective equipment, supplies, and tools
- Minimize physical contact between staff and patients

Think outside the clinic:
- Set up and facilitate curbside or drive-thru flu vaccination capabilities
- Create alternative options to your waiting room (eg, patients wait in their cars before and after vaccination)
- Utilize mobile flu shot clinics, such as vans or buses
- Create pop-up vaccination sites within the community
- Schedule employer on-site flu vaccination opportunities
- Designate specific weekday or weekend hours for flu clinics

More complimentary resources will be available soon at [flu.sequis.com/flu-vaccine-resources](http://flu.sequis.com/flu-vaccine-resources).

If you have questions, call flu360 | Support at 855-358-8966.

For information on providing non-COVID-19 care during the pandemic, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

References: