

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Practitioners  
**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
**Date:** November 30, 2021  
**Re:** Mitigating Risks When Administering Multiple Vaccines

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With pharmacies now delivering adult COVID-19 doses, booster doses, pediatric doses, and influenza vaccinations, and some using both appointment-based and walk-in delivery models, there may be instances where pharmacies are administering different vaccines at the same time. It is crucial that pharmacy managers and pharmacy practitioners recognize the increased risk of vaccine administration errors that this creates and ensure that processes to mitigate these risks are developed, implemented, and followed.

Pharmacy practitioners should consider the following risk mitigation strategies at the two critical points most at risk for an error to occur:

### Vaccine Preparation:

- ensuring there are discrete workspaces for vaccine preparation and/or separate preparation times for each vaccine
- colour coding vaccine storage bins
- using colour-coded labels for pre-drawn syringes that identify the contents and that correspond with the colour on the vaccine's vial

### Vaccine Administration:

- prioritizing the importance of the immunizer taking the time to ensure the 7 "Rights" of immunization (right drug, right client, right dose, right time, right route, right reason, and right documentation) for each and every patient that is seated in the chair in front of them
- ensuring each immunizer only administers one type of vaccine during a designated clinic time (e.g., all pediatric or all adult)
- using separate immunization rooms for different vaccines whenever possible

The PHAC webinar and slide deck included below also provide helpful information on risks associated with multi-product clinics and recommended control measures.

Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

- [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines: Summary of Use for Health Care Providers](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada

- [Webinar: Preparing for Pediatric COVID-19 Immunization and Adult Booster Doses](#)
- [PHAC Slide Deck](#)