

# City Health Information

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New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

## SUMMARY OF GUIDANCE FROM *CITY HEALTH INFORMATION*, 2021

In 2021, *City Health Information* published clinical guidance on COVID-19 as the pandemic continued in New York City and on other important health issues that we continue to face as a community. Here, we provide a summary of the year's topics not directly related to COVID-19. **For the latest updates on COVID-19, see [COVID-19: Providers](#).**

### TESTING FOR AND TREATING LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION

CME credit (1) available until June 7, 2022

- Tuberculosis (TB) remains an important public health concern in New York City.
- Identification and treatment of people with latent TB infection (LTBI) is essential to TB prevention efforts.
- Screen all patients for TB risk factors.
- Test patients at high risk for TB infection using a blood-based interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) as indicated.
- Rule out active TB disease in patients with a positive test for TB infection.
- Treat patients with LTBI using short-course regimens and ensure treatment completion.
- Report TB infection test results and LTBI treatment as required by the Health Code.



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### TALKING WITH PARENTS ABOUT CHILDHOOD VACCINATION: BUILDING VACCINE CONFIDENCE

- You are the most important influence on parents' decisions to have their children and adolescents vaccinated.
- Routine childhood vaccinations have declined during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative to take steps to bring your patients up to date on their immunizations.
- Use every office visit as an opportunity to review your patients' vaccination status and offer recommended vaccines.
- Acknowledge and empathize with parents' concerns and respond with accurate information.
- Let parents know why you do or would vaccinate your own children at the recommended intervals.



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### INFLUENZA PREVENTION AND CONTROL, 2021-2022

CME credits (2) available until June 30, 2022

- Provider recommendation is the strongest predictor of vaccination. Ensure that you and your entire staff receive flu vaccine and counsel patients and caregivers on the benefits of flu vaccination.
- Use every opportunity to vaccinate all patients aged 6 months and older against influenza, especially those at risk for severe illness from influenza and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). All routine vaccines can be coadministered with flu vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccine.
- Vaccinate all children aged 6 through 59 months attending City-licensed and City-regulated childcare against influenza by December 31st of each year, as required by the New York City Board of Health.
- Give inactivated flu vaccine to all pregnant persons in any trimester to prevent influenza infection and complications in both the patient and infant.
- Administer high-dose or adjuvanted flu vaccine to patients aged 65 years and older.



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## FREE CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) ACTIVITIES

CME credits are available for the following CHIs:

- [Testing for and Treating Latent Tuberculosis Infection](#)  
Credit available (1) until June 7, 2022
- [Influenza Prevention and Control, 2021-2022](#)  
Credit available (2) until June 30, 2022