## **Letter to Editor**

## Transforming COVID Immunization Centers at Medical Colleges into Adult Immunization Clinics

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## Dear Editor.

The scientific community has been advocating for adult immunization services both nationally & internationally. 1,2,3 We suggest that, infrastructure, trained manpower and protocols that were put in place for COVID immunization in Medical colleges be utilized for Adult Immunization in the aftermath of COVID pandemic. In this regard an initiative has been started by Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni.

Along with Paediatrics department, we have been providing Immunization services for our medical students. These include Hepatitis B vaccination for all undergraduates, postgraduates & faculty members who desire to avail of vaccination. Additionally, immunization services for adults undertaking International travel are also planned barring Yellow fever vaccine. Formalizing these demand driven services as an integral part of Community Medicine using the existing framework of COVID immunization clinics would ensure utility of facilities and reduce investment for creating new clinics.

Guidelines for Adult Immunization are available.<sup>4</sup> Institutes that already have such clinics can provide guidelines for operationalizing these centers. Further, plans to start Emporiatrics (Travel Medicine) OPDs can also be drawn so that, significant investments made during COVID times can be put to good use.

Emporiatrics or travel medicine has a key role in coming years for identification of new risks and also establishment of new methods of therapy and prophylaxis for the travelers' benefit.<sup>5</sup> These steps can enhance the role of Medical Colleges in providing Preventive services to the Public and further emphasize role of Community Medicine in Health Service Provision.

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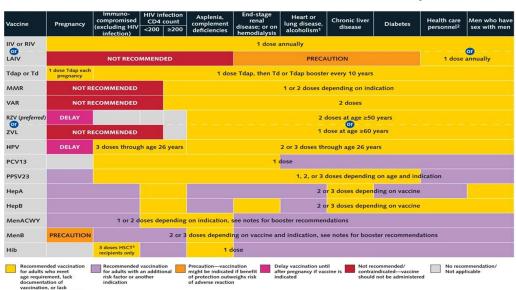


Table 1: Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule by CDC<sup>4</sup>

1. Precaution for LAIV does not apply to alcoholism. 2. See notes for influenza; hepatitis B; measles, mumps, and rubella; and varicella vaccinations. 3. Hematopoietic stem cell transplant.