

Ethical considerations in alternative COVID-19 vaccination strategies: delayed second doses, mixing vaccines, and partial doses

Faced with scarce and uncertain COVID-19 vaccine supplies, many countries are considering adopting vaccination schedules that differ from the recommendations of vaccine manufacturers. Some have extended the interval between doses for two-dose vaccines to provide at least some protection for a larger number of people sooner. Others are looking at maximizing the number of people receiving some degree of protection by administering partial doses or foregoing the second dose of two-dose vaccines altogether. A third approach under consideration is whether two different COVID-19 vaccines could be given at the same time, to complete a two-dose vaccination regimen in one visit. Deviations from manufacturer's recommendations could be seen as experimental, and have the capacity to threaten public confidence, but they might also avert substantial morbidity and mortality in populations. This seminar will explore the ethical considerations that ought to guide decision-making regarding adopting alternative vaccination strategies or implementing vaccine manufacturer recommendations.

Time: 26 April 2021 1pm-2pm (London)

To register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3yqJLN4QT5ieGaoK1nI0zQ

Chair: [Dr Sonali Kochhar, MD](#), Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Global Health, University of Washington; Medical Director of Global Healthcare Consulting, India

Panel: [Dr Raji Tajudeen](#), Head of Division of Public Health Institutes and Research, Africa CDC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
[Prof Jonathan Wolff](#), Alfred Landecker Professor of Values and Public Policy Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK
[Cassandra J. Opikokew Wajuntah](#), Director of the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatchewan, Canada

The following questions will form the basis of the seminar's panel discussion. Seminar attendees are invited to submit questions in advance of the seminar when they [register](#) or during the live discussion.

1. How should decision-makers balance what may be 'right' for the individual and what may be 'right' for the population when it comes to alternative COVID-19 vaccination strategies?
2. How should the unique needs of some populations (e.g., immunocompromised individuals) be addressed when considering alternative COVID-19 vaccination strategies?
3. To what degree, if any, should countries consider the global implications of decisions they might make about alternative COVID-19 vaccination strategies?

Background reading

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2021/04/08/covid-surge-deliver-first-vaccine-shots-delay-second-doses-column/7122747002/>



<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/13/briefing/daunte-wright-shooting-michigan-britain.html>

There are also some studies starting up in this area as well, e.g.:

<https://comcovstudy.org.uk/>