

## Changing the Way We Work

April 26, 2024: Infectious Disease Updates and Approaching ADHD

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*Curated answers from CoP guests, panelists and co-hosts to the top five in-session questions posed by participants, based on current guidance and information available at the time.*

### **Where can patients receive a spring dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

COVID-19 vaccines are available at pharmacies. You can find your closest pharmacy here: <https://www.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations/>

### **Is there any work being done to combine the flu and COVID-19 vaccines?**

Yes, it is coming. However, it is a bit more challenging than we initially anticipated, so the earliest it will be available is 2026.

### **Should we continue to ask patients to wear masks in our offices?**

Symptomatic patients should be asked to wear a mask. However, for asymptomatic patients, it is optional, and each practice can create their own policies, depending on how crowded their office is, whether they have staff that are immunocompromised and what makes their staff and patients most comfortable. There is nothing wrong at this point with continuing to require masking, or not requiring masks.

### **What are the best screening tools for diagnosing ADHD in children and adults? Do you recommend using short acting drugs for children?**

I recommend using [SNAP-26](#) for children, [ASRS](#) for older teens and adults, [CADDRA Teacher Assessment](#) for teachers in schools and WEISS-WFIRS for inclusive mental health inventory. All are available here: [www.caddra.ca/etoolkit-forms/](http://www.caddra.ca/etoolkit-forms/)

Short acting medication should never be used, especially in children. These medications need to be given multiple times throughout the day, have more side effects and are easily abused.

### **Are we not creating health disparities by charging for ADHD assessments?**

I agree with you, which is why CADDRA is advocating for the government to support mental health and patients with ADHD.

If you're interested, please [apply to join CADDRA](#). It is a great source for information on ADHD, learning modules and membership allows you to access ADHDTreat, the online assessment tool.

*These additional questions and comments were answered live during the session. To view responses, please refer to the session recording.*

- How much should we charge for ADHD assessments as family doctors, so we are not doing work for free that others are being paid for?
- Can you please give us updates on the long-term risks of repeated COVID-19 infections?
- Is it true that Paxlovid is equally as effective as a placebo?
- Given that COVID-19 is going to be around forever, wouldn't it be reasonable to offer the vaccine every year along with the flu vaccine?
- I've had a few young patients who are not considered high risk, who received their last COVID-19 vaccine more than six months ago and are now interested in getting another dose. Can I go ahead and give them another dose, or should I advise these patients to wait until the fall?
- At what point during the treatment of anxiety can ADHD medications be started safely? I find that ADHD symptoms often seem to aggravate anxiety.
- How are economically disadvantaged patients supposed to get diagnosed with COVID-19 now that RATs are no longer available?
- Will anyone (with ADHD or not) feel better and function better on Vyvance? Should we be worried about treating people without ADHD, and the risk of side effects when masses are treated?
- What is the risk of using ADHD medications if a patient doesn't actually have ADHD?
- Why don't hospital psychiatrists/CAMH assess for ADHD?
- Are any ADHD medications better for those wanting to get pregnant or should I just wean a patient off their medication prior to becoming pregnant?