

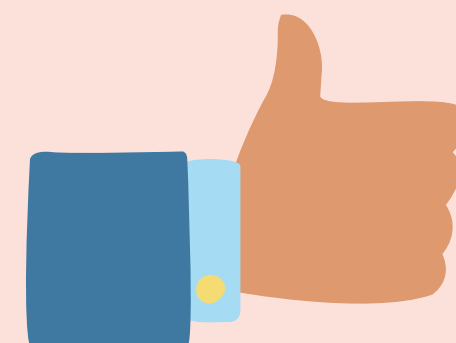


How to talk about the COVID-19 vaccine with patients

As the COVID-19 vaccine starts to be distributed, it is essential to make sure people in the communities you serve feel safe taking it. This sheet will give you tips on how to discuss the vaccine with your clients.

Recommend the vaccine and share your personal plans to get vaccinated

As a trusted member of the community, your recommendations can have a big impact, especially if your clients know that you intend to be vaccinated yourself.



Listen to your patients' concerns without judgement

Allow them to express their worries, and offer to answer their questions.



Consider the needs of your community

Perceptions about the vaccine differ based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, and geography. Be sensitive to this when reassuring your clients about the vaccine.



Talk about the people and science behind the vaccine

Avoid speaking about the large companies but rather the health experts that have developed the vaccine.



Explain the importance of being vaccinated, not the consequences

Focus on how the vaccine will keep themselves and their families safe.



Have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Email: C19vaccine.MECDC@maine.gov

Know of someone in need of social support services to quarantine or isolate?

Fill out the online referral form:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/form/covid-19-referral-form>

OR

Email: DHHS.COVIDSocialSupport@maine.gov



Key Talking Points

Below are some phrases you can use when talking to patients about the vaccine



- I plan to encourage all my patients the vaccine once it is available
- There are many benefits to being vaccinated against COVID-19
- I hear your concerns about the vaccine, and I can answer any questions you have.
- Getting the vaccine will keep you and your family safe
- Getting vaccinated can help you return to normal in your community, workplace, and daily life
- The vaccine will help repair the damage from lockdowns and isolation
- The likelihood of having severe side effects from the vaccine is very small.
- Mild side effects are a normal response and will go away in a few days.
- The vaccine is safe and has been well researched and tested by America's and the world's top medical experts
- Every study, every phase, and every trial was reviewed thoroughly for its safety.
- I strongly recommend you get a COVID-19 vaccine once it is widely available
- Together we can help us get to a day when 8 out of 10 people are vaccinated, then our world can put this behind us

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