



Discussing COVID-19 Vaccination with Your Patients

Vaccination is the single most important intervention we have against this virus right now. Your patients trust you and want to hear from you. Your strong recommendation is a critical factor in whether your patients will be vaccinated against COVID-19. Together we can save lives. Everyone 12 years of age and older can get the COVID-19 vaccine. **Below are some answers to questions your patients might have:**

Question	Answer
Why should I get vaccinated?	COVID-19 can cause serious illness or death. You can spread it to your loved ones. Vaccines protect you against COVID-19, and vaccination helps us stop the epidemic and get back to normal.
Are COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective at preventing disease?	All COVID-19 vaccines available in the United State (US) are safe and effective in preventing disease. Over 100 million people in the U.S. are vaccinated.
Will the shot make me sick or give me side effects?	You may have side effects like tiredness, headache, chills after vaccination, but these are normal signs that your body is building protection. These effects usually only last a day or two at most.

Below are some conversation tips to use with your patients:

Useful Conversation Tips	Principle
1. Start with Open-Ended Questions that Do Not Assume Vaccine Acceptance.	A soft start into a controversial topic enables engagement
2. Acknowledge patient concerns without judging.	Empathy reduces the perception that you approve or disapprove of someone.
3. Avoid criticizing the patient's information sources; cite your experience and/or point them to high quality sources.	Instead of trying to argue against misinformation, provide high quality information from a positive frame.
4. Share your experience of having received the vaccine and that of your colleagues, family, and other patients.	Personal anecdote, when accompanied by a show of genuine concern from an authentic and credible source, can be motivating to patients.
5. Link vaccine acceptance to the patient's hopes and goals.	Showing how the vaccine is a stepping-stone towards a future the patient wants can motivate them.

There are many places where your patients can get vaccinated. You or your patient can use the New York City's Vaccine finder (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines.page#walk-up-sites>) to find the **nearest walk-up vaccination site** or call **877-VAX-4NYC** (877-829-4692).

If patients wish to schedule an appointment, they can find same day appointments at <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/> or providers can call **877-VAX-4-NYC** and **press 2** (providers only) to be directed to an operator who will help book an appointment for patients on the spot.

- Request free transportation to and from a vaccination appointment for city residents 65 and older, as well as for those with disabilities who have no other way to get to a vaccination site.
- Request in-home vaccination for NYC residents who cannot leave their home. Your patient can [sign up online for an in-home vaccination](#).