Tips for Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy for Immigration Related Concerns



Immigrant communities may be hesitant about going to a COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Below are tips and considerations for making your vaccine clinic more welcoming.



We encourage you to **avoid asking** for patients' Social Security numbers or proof of citizenship.

Immigrants may be worried about giving out their personal information. Patients aren't required to provide their Social Security number, identification, or other documentation. Providers can still get reimbursed through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) COVID-19 Uninsured Program without this documentation.

If you do ask, make sure to tell patients that:

- Everyone can receive the COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of their immigration status.
- They do not need to share their information if they aren't comfortable.
- You will only use the information to get reimbursed for giving the vaccine, and it will not be shared with immigration authorities.
- You don't need and won't collect, share, or ask for information about their immigration status.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is provided at no cost.





Make the clinic environment welcoming.

People are more likely to get vaccinated if the clinic is comfortable and convenient. You can consider:

Access:

- Make a clear statement in your outreach or scheduling system that the vaccine is for everyone regardless of immigration status.
- Pick a location that is familiar to the community you're trying to reach.
- Avoid anything that is close to places that may cause fear (i.e., police stations, jails, etc.).
- Make sure all your communication, education, and outreach efforts are culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible (this is required under <u>Title VI of the Civil</u> Rights Act).
- Proactively address access barriers. For example, you can offer walk-in appointments instead of requiring appointments.
- Consider throwaway email accounts for patients to help them stay anonymous.



Ask for help from partners.

There are people and resources in your community that can help with the vaccine clinic.

Partners:

- Partner with trusted community leaders for vaccine event planning and coordination.
- If you're working with the National Guard, provide transparent communication that the National Guard will be present with information about their role and support for the vaccine clinic. Patients may be wary of National Guard in uniform.
- Help your patients access free <u>ride share resources</u> if people don't have transportation or don't want to risk driving without a license.

Resources

For patients:

- COVID-19 vaccine know your rights Washington Solidarity Immigrant Network
- Know your rights Protecting Immigrant Families coalition
- Washington's COVID-19 immigrant relief fund
- Free and discounted rides available for vaccine appointments
- <u>COVID-19 translated material library</u> National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants
- Resources and recommendations (filter by 36+ languages)

For providers:

- What providers need to know about COVID-19 vaccine fees and reimbursement Health Resources and Services Administration
- <u>Frequently asked questions COVID-19 coverage assistance</u> Health Resources and Services Administration
- <u>COVID-19 Vaccine 101 webinar: Guidance for those working with refugee, immigrant and migrant communities</u>
- Discussion Guide: Building confidence in mRNA vaccine
- <u>Discussion Guide: Building confidence in Johnson & Johnson</u>
- COVID-19 vaccine provider toolkit
- COVID-19 language access plan
- COVID-19 vaccine clinics equitable site planning tool
- COVID-19 vaccine equity and engagement

