

COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points

For Non-Vaccinating Health Care Providers

These talking points are for the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and health care partners to assist in conversations with patients.

Key Messages:

- The COVID-19 vaccine is your best protection against COVID-19. The vaccine will help your body fight the virus if you are exposed and help prevent the spread of the virus to those around you.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is available to all people 5 years and older. To find a vaccine, go to vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov or call 1-833-VAX-HELP (833-829-4357), then press #. For interpretation services, state your language when your call is answered.
- There are three vaccines currently available. The three vaccines are authorized for emergency use or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA):
 - Pfizer-BioNTech
 - Moderna
 - Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)
- The vaccines greatly reduce your chance of getting seriously ill or hospitalized if you get COVID-19. If you do get sick, your risk of needing to go to the hospital or death is lower for all known virus variants, including the Delta variant.

Talking Points:

Vaccine Safety

- The FDA granted an emergency use authorization (EUA) to the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson - Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. Pfizer vaccine also has full FDA approval for some age groups.
- Scientists gave the vaccine to tens of thousands of people in clinical trials to look at the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. They found no serious safety concerns. Since then, hundreds of millions of people have gotten the vaccines safely.
- You can sign-up for a smartphone-based tool from CDC, called v-safe, to receive personalized health check-ins after receiving the vaccine. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/vsafe.

Who Should Get the Vaccine

- The COVID-19 vaccine is recommended and available to all people 5 years and older, including people who are pregnant, lactating, or planning to become pregnant.

- If you previously had COVID-19, you should still get the vaccine to make sure you have the best protection against the virus.

Vaccine Considerations

- It is your choice whether to get the vaccine for COVID-19. However, some employers and colleges do require it.
- The federal government will cover the full cost of the vaccine. You should not be charged or billed.
- For COVID-19 vaccines requiring two doses in the primary series, you should receive the same vaccine product for both doses. A booster dose can be any product and does not have to be the same brand as your primary series.
- It is safe to administer the COVID-19 vaccine with other routine vaccinations, such as the flu vaccine.

About the Vaccines

- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are two-dose series. The Pfizer vaccine is given 21 days apart, and Moderna is given 28 days apart. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a one-dose series.
- CDC recommends an additional (third) dose of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to certain immunocompromised groups. Further questions should be directed to a primary care physician.
- Booster doses are recommended for certain groups. If you had a Pfizer or Moderna series, you should get your booster 6 months after your second dose. Johnson & Johnson recipients should get their booster 2 months after their initial vaccine.
- Protection is not immediate. It will take about two weeks after completing the vaccine series for full protection.

Share Your Story

This is an opportunity to share your COVID-19 vaccination experience with your patient. Testimonials are powerful tools that inspire action, help to build trust and allow you to connect with others. Together we can make a difference.

Conversation Starters:

"I'm so happy we have the option to get vaccinated so we can protect our loved ones. I got vaccinated right away. How about you?"

"I care about you, and I want to make sure that you're protected. Have you gotten your vaccine?"

“Getting my vaccine helps me feel that I’ve done my part. You can’t control anyone else, but you can help keep you and your family safe by getting the vaccine. Have you gotten yours?”

“I had those same questions about the vaccine for kids, but after looking into it, I vaccinated both of my daughters. Can I share what I read that helped me decide?”

Helpful Tips:

Lead with empathy

Make an emotional connection

Don’t be afraid to “POP” the question

Be compassionate and curious

Resources:

- [COVID-19 vaccine information for health care providers](#) (includes information on clinical practices, vaccine management, and patient education)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine: Common Worries and Facts \(PDF\)](#)
- [Vaccine Locator](#)
- [Talking with Patients About COVID-19 Vaccination](#)