

Flu Vaccine Hesitancy: Providers Lead the Discussion

DECLARE

This office supports yearly flu vaccination.

- "Our office policy is to vaccinate staff."
- "I also get a flu shot every year."
- "Flu vaccine is safe and saves lives."

STATE: "I plan to vaccinate your child to help protect against flu today."

HESITANT

(Parent is reluctant to make a firm decision.)

ACKNOWLEDGE - Ask Again

Flu vaccine isn't a guarantee you won't get sick but, if you do get sick, it won't be nearly as bad.

- "Studies show better outcomes for those who vaccinate."
- "There are so many myths online, I can understand why you are hesitant."
- "I vaccinate myself, my staff, and my own kids."

ASK: "Will you please allow me to give your child a flu shot today?"

YES

NO

AFFIRM - and Recommend

Thank you for making the best decision for your child.

- "Please remember to get a flu shot every year."
- "All family members should get their flu shots, too, so the whole household is protected."

REFUSAL

(Parent does not want to discuss it further.)

REITERATE - Ask Again

Flu is a serious illness. When communities aren't vaccinated flu spreads and hospitals are overburdened.

- "Other patients are at risk when people won't vaccinate."
- "My role is to keep your children healthy and avoid illness."
- "As a medical provider, I feel a flu shot is the best choice to protect your child."

ASK: "Will you please allow me to give your child a flu shot today?"

ADVISE - and Educate

Flu shots save lives every year, including teens and young children.

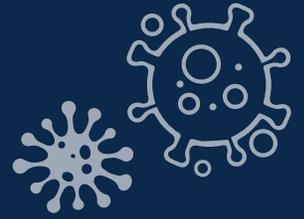
- "I will keep offering flu vaccination while you are patients at this clinic."
- "Here are some good resources I recommend you read."
- "My office will follow up with you on the phone."

ADVISE: "I would like to reschedule a flu shot for another day."

YES

Flu Vaccine Discussion:

Parents Lead the Discussion



Common Concerns from Parents

“My kids never get the flu, so I don’t feel the need to vaccinate.”

“Even healthy children can become seriously ill from the flu. Children aged 5 and under and at higher risk of complications from the flu. Just because your child has avoided becoming very sick from the flu in the past, doesn’t mean they are safe from the flu.”

“I don’t think the flu vaccine is safe.”

“Flu vaccines have a good safety record. There has been extensive research supporting the safety of flu vaccines. Flu vaccines cannot cause flu. The vaccines either contain inactivated virus that is no longer infectious, or a particle designed to appear like a flu virus to your immune system.”

“Flu shots are too expensive.”

“All children in Washington receive flu vaccine at no cost through age 18. For adults, most insurance companies cover flu vaccine at no cost as a preventative medical benefit for those over 18. The provider may charge a fee to give the vaccine, called an administration fee. You can ask for this fee to be waived if you cannot afford it.”

“I don’t think the flu is a big deal.”

“The flu is unpredictable and can be severe, especially for older people, young kids, pregnant people, and people with certain health conditions.”

“What if the vaccine gives my child the flu?”

“The flu vaccine can not give you the flu. Some people might feel mild symptoms for a short while after their flu vaccine, but it is not the flu. It does take the flu vaccine two weeks to start working. Your child can get the flu during those two weeks. That’s why it is best to get vaccinated by the end of October, when flu activity usually starts to increase.”

For more flu resources visit: www.FluFreeWA.org