

Creating the Conversation –



It's Worth a Shot.

Although the majority of adults 65 and older in the United States have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine, many may not understand their risk for severe illness, realize the importance of staying up to date with their vaccines or know when they should get one.

As a trusted healthcare professional, you can help build vaccine confidence, dispel myths, address questions about prevention and treatment options, and when possible, provide vaccination.

Use every interaction to help support the conversation and enhance the health of your community.

Success Strategies for Effective Vaccination Conversations

Empower your team*

- Build effective communication skills (e.g., reflective listening, motivational interviewing).
- Provide training and resources that allow staff to educate patients and their caregivers, dispel myths, and further the conversation.

Enable focused and effective discussions

- Create the space: limit distractions and disruptions.
- Make the offer and be prepared to address questions and concerns with facts.

Ensure patients are informed

- Structure conversations so that your patients understand the associated risks of vaccine preventable disease, the benefits and risks associated with vaccines, and where to find clear, accurate, and trustworthy information.

Embed discussions throughout the process

- Assess vaccination status at triage, during medication reconciliation, and prior to discharge.
- Use available sources such as the patient, medical records, and immunization registry to determine vaccination needs.

Expand your reach

- Extend the vaccination offer to family and/or caregivers who are visiting and/or accompanying the patient.

*Three Resources to Help Empower Your Team

1. **Talking To Your Patients About COVID-19: An introduction to motivational interviewing**
(<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/engaging-patients.html>)
2. **COVID-19: How to Protect Yourself and Stay Healthy: Guidance document that can be shared with patients, caregivers and other consumers with tips on how to stay healthy**
(<https://qi-library.ipro.org/2022/04/19/covid-19-how-to-protect-yourself-and-stay-healthy>)
3. **Vaccinations for Adults: An educational presentation that can be delivered to consumers**
(<https://qi-library.ipro.org/2022/11/30/vaccinations-for-adults>)



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