COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations

You are one of the most influential sources of COVID-19 vaccine information for your friends and family. By communicating with patience and empathy, you can help the people close to you feel confident about COVID-19 vaccines.

Tips for talking about COVID-19 vaccines

Listen with empathy and ask open ended questions to explore their concerns and acknowledge them without judgement. Know that it is okay to have strong emotions around the COVID-19 vaccines.

Ask for their permission to share information. If they agree, they will be more willing to listen to you instead of feeling like you are pushing unwanted information on them.

Help them find their own reason for getting vaccinated. Ask if it is okay to share your reasons for getting vaccinated. Find the values you share with them. Know we all want to make the best decisions for ourselves and our loved ones’ health.

Acknowledge that this might be where the conversation stays. Remember that one conversation will likely not change someone’s opinions about COVID-19 vaccination. If the conversation becomes emotional, end the conversation for now rather than let it escalate.

Move the conversation into action. Help them get vaccinated by offering to help find a vaccine location, transportation, childcare, or additional vaccine information. If they are not quite ready, encourage other prevention behaviors such as wearing a mask and washing hands, or talking to a trusted health professional.

Resources to help with COVID-19 vaccine conversations

The following resources give you the facts on COVID-19 vaccines and can help you have effective conversations with friends and family members.

- Learn vaccine facts. Get a better understanding of each of the available vaccines, FDA clinical trials, and the safety monitoring systems that are in place. www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-safety.htm