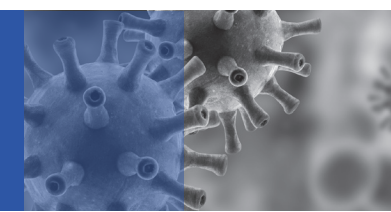


PrOTCT Framework

for COVID-19 vaccine discussions with parents and caregivers

Version 4, July 27, 2022



“What do you think of the new vaccine for kids? Do you think my child should get it? Is it safe?”

When patients ask these questions, it may be tempting to dive into answering. This framework will help approach these conversations thoughtfully to achieve a positive, effective interaction that builds trust while sharing important information.

P: **Presume** they will get the vaccine with positive statements

Talking tip:

- I have already gotten the COVID vaccine for my children/ many of my patients who are children.
- I am happy to help your child get it too so they can be protected and help protect their family.¹

O: **offer** to share your knowledge about the facts and your experience with having had the vaccine

Talking tip:

I have been thinking a lot about this vaccine for my patients and educating myself on the science around it. Can I share some of what I know with you?²

Provider resources:

- [Vaccines Emerging Evidence \(CEP\)](#)
- [Ensuring Patient Confidence in Vaccines \(CEP\)](#)
- [Patient Resources and FAQs](#)

T: **Tailor** the recommendation to their specific health concerns

Talking tip:

Here is why this vaccine will benefit your child:

- It is the best option to protect children and infants from hospitalization, which can happen even in healthy children.
- It will provide extra peace of mind as your child will be spending time with grandparents for whom transmission of this virus can have significant health consequences.
- Even mild COVID in kids has been associated with long lasting symptoms like “long COVID” or multisystem inflammation.^{3,4}
- It can help keep kids from missing school and activities if there is an outbreak.

Provider resources:

- [Ensuring Patient Confidence in Vaccines \(CEP\)](#)
- [Patient Resources and FAQs](#)

C: Address specific **concerns** (should not be the bulk of the conversation)

Talking tip:

Are there any particular concerns about this vaccine you would like me to address? We can also discuss ways to make getting the vaccine more comfortable for your child, such as creating a child friendly environment, comfort positions, distractions, or pain relief.²

Provider resources:

- [Ensuring Patient Confidence in Vaccines \(CEP\)](#)
- [Patient Resources and FAQs](#)

T: **Talk** through a specific plan for where and when to get the vaccine

Talking tip:

You can do the following to get the vaccine:²

- Discuss timing of vaccination for the child. For example, parents may choose to wait if the child has had a recent COVID-19 infection as waiting may give stronger long term protection.
- Review timing of other routine vaccinations to ensure they are not given concurrently with the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Provide appointment time, information sheets and vaccine schedule.
- Consider creating an individualized vaccine plan for the child so the parent and child know exactly what to expect before, during, and after the appointment
- Keep the conversation going. If your patient does not book a vaccine appointment, schedule a time for them to discuss it further with you.

Provider resources:

- [COVID-19 vaccines \(CEP\)](#)

For FAQs on COVID-19 vaccines for children and resources on reducing needle phobia see [CEP's Patient Resources List](#).

References

1. Opel et al. Impact of Childhood Vaccine Discussion Format Over Time on Immunization Status. *Acad Pediatr*. 2018;18(4):430-436. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5936647/>
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