



COVID-19 Vaccine Speaker Guide for School Administrators

This guide provides background information and resources about inviting professionals to speak to school faculty, parents/guardians, and students about COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccination Is the Best Protection Against COVID-19

Free FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are currently available for everyone ages 12 and older.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect your school and community from the virus that causes COVID-19.

Encourage Your Faculty, Parents/Guardians, and Students to Get Vaccinated

You can use your resources as a leader in your community to share information and encourage your school's faculty, parents/guardians, and students to get vaccinated.

Millions of people in the United States have received a COVID-19 vaccine—nearly half the population is fully vaccinated, but the vaccination rate has slowed recently as more people who are vaccine hesitant increasingly comprise the unvaccinated population.

The unvaccinated population—including children under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine—has never been more at risk now that the highly contagious Delta variant is spreading. In fact, COVID-19 cases are increasing most in communities where vaccination rates are lowest. The COVID-19 pandemic has now become a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

The Information Source Matters

Consider inviting health care providers in your community to speak with school's faculty, students, and parents/guardians.

When it comes to increasing confidence in and uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines, the source of information is as important as the information itself.

People tend to believe and act on the advice of people they trust.

People most trust their health care providers, such as doctors and nurses, to provide them with reliable information about the vaccines. People also tend to view medical experts other than their own health care providers as trusted messengers.

How to Find and Host Speakers

- 1. Find Local Experts:** Your first place to look should be your [local public health department](#). They will likely have a list of vetted health care providers/experts who can speak about COVID-19 and the vaccines. Or they can refer you.

Other organizations to reach out to include:

- [State chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [State medical society or association](#)
- [Local medical school](#)

You can also visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find vaccine providers near you who may be able to connect you with a local pharmacist or doctor.

- 2. Pick a Date and a Location:** Pick a convenient, trusted location for your event, such as a school auditorium or cafeteria. Work with the speaker to consider the date and time that may work best for your school community and parents/guardians, including weekend and after-school hours.
- 3. Prepare for the Event and Begin Outreach:** Work with the speaker to familiarize them with your school district's rules and regulations. Finalize the event agenda and anticipate questions that may come up. Prepare handouts as necessary such as *We Can Do This* campaign resources pictured on the following page.

You will play a critical role in engaging and educating your school. Share information about the upcoming event, as well as general vaccination information—including that COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone ages 12 and older. Make sure to share information on whether parental presence or consent is required for a COVID-19 vaccine, in line with state regulations. To amplify and engage your community, consider posting on social media, sharing signage, and leveraging trusted messengers in your school.


- 4. Host Your Event:** Work hand-in-hand with the speaker to finalize the operations of your event. Continue to engage your school system, including with day-of reminders. Identify a lead to liaise with the speaker to help ensure the day goes smoothly.

Share the COVID-19 Public Education Campaign Materials

Whoever you invite to speak with your school's faculty, students, and parents/guardians, make sure they have the latest fact-based public health messaging from the [We Can Do This](#) campaign to help everyone make informed decisions about their health and COVID-19.

Below are some helpful resources from the Campaign.

How to Talk About COVID-19 Vaccines With Parents and Teens



How to Talk About COVID-19 Vaccines with Parents and Teens

Be active in answering questions

Many parents and teens will have questions, and it is important to provide them a venue to ask them. There are many actions community organizations can take to help answer these questions:


- Host a public event where parents and teens can come and ask questions. Invite a local pediatrician or state or local health official to join
- Host a social media town hall to encourage discussion about the vaccine
- Send out email blasts that answer questions you are hearing frequently in the community

Listen to their questions with empathy

COVID-19 vaccines are new, and it's normal for people to have questions about them. The sheer amount of information – and misinformation – about COVID-19 vaccines can be overwhelming to anyone. You can help by listening without judgment and identifying the root of their concerns.

Acknowledge their emotions so they know they have been heard. For example, you can say, "It sounds like you are stressed at work and home, and concerns about the vaccine are another source of stress. That's really tough."

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Students



COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for Students

Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are here now, and everyone age 12 and older can get them. You have three ways to find free COVID-19 vaccines near you:

- Go to [vaccines.gov](#)
- Text your ZIP code to 438829
- Call 1-800-232-0233

How well do the COVID-19 vaccines work?

All FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines prevent nearly 100% of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine keep me from infecting others?

COVID-19 vaccines reduce the likelihood that you'll develop and be able to spread COVID-19. A growing body of evidence shows that the risk of vaccinated people getting and spreading the virus to others is low, but ongoing studies are further analyzing this question.


Do the vaccines work on the new COVID variants?

Scientists continue to study different forms, or variants, of the virus that causes COVID-19 to see if the vaccines will work against them. Current data suggest that the vaccines authorized and recommended for use in the United States offer protection against most variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including illness caused by the new variants. CDC will continue to monitor the impact these new variants may have on how well the vaccines work.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States meet the FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Tens of millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and all COVID vaccines will continue to be monitored for safety.

Key Things to Know About COVID-19



Key Things to Know About COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines are safe

All authorized COVID-19 vaccines meet FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines will continue undergoing the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history to make sure that they are safe. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccines can't make you sick with COVID-19

None of the vaccines being used or tested in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that they cannot make you sick with COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)



COVID-19 vaccines are effective

All FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines prevent nearly 100% of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 virus variants and vaccines

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Getting the Facts: Vaccine Awareness & Slowing the Spread



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Vaccines are here. What you need to know.

How the COVID-19 vaccines work

- COVID-19 vaccines help your body develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without you getting the virus.
- Different vaccines work in different ways, but all types of vaccines teach the body how to fight the virus in the future and build immunity.
- It can take a few weeks for your body to build immunity after getting a COVID-19 vaccine or second vaccine in 2 dose series.
- It's possible that you could get COVID-19 just before or after being fully vaccinated, but it is not possible to get COVID-19 from any of the vaccines being used or tested in the United States.

Benefits of getting vaccinated

- COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications, and there is no way to know how it will affect you. Getting vaccinated will help keep you from getting COVID-19.
- Based on what we know, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, such as older adults and people with medical conditions.
- Getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others provide the best protection from COVID-19.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?