

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

What sparks vaccine hesitancy?



History of medical racism which sparked mistrust and distrust of government institutions



Low health literacy and concerns about potential costs



Unknowns about side effects if in a special health status population

Dental teams are well-positioned to talk with diverse populations of patients about total health prevention.

Where can I learn more?



CDC's Division of Oral Health COVID-19 statement for prevention and HPV resources



California Department of Public Health COVID-19 resources for children with disabilities



Vaccine Overview from the California Dental Association



American Dental Association COVID-19 guidance

Learn more about COVID-19 and considerations for special populations.

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Why should dentists discuss vaccine hesitancy?



To keep their communities and staff healthy and build trust



To promote total disease prevention for all patients

As a dentist, you have opportunities to address vaccine hesitancy for diverse populations, including vaccine safety for patients who are pregnant and for individuals who have faced medical discrimination or have special needs.

What are the dentist's goals?



LEARN



SHARE



PREVENT

Dentists should LEARN about the latest vaccination information for flu, COVID, and HPV, SHARE with their patients, and discuss PREVENTion opportunities for a patient's total health



ASK



ANSWER



ASSIST

Dentists can learn more about a patient's vaccine hesitancy by ASKING how comfortable they are about vaccination, ANSWERING their questions about COVID-19 and HPV vaccination, and ASSISTING with receiving the vaccine!