

For our dental partners:

Talking to patients about the **COVID-19** vaccine

Dental teams play an important role in providing care during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also have a role in bringing this public health emergency to an end.

The patients we serve often experience health disparities that have been magnified by this pandemic.

We now have a powerful tool that can prevent COVID-19 and help end this pandemic: the COVID-19 vaccine. Dental teams have a unique opportunity to help increase the number of patients who are vaccinated in multiple ways:

- ▶ Research shows that the majority of people trust their health care providers to provide reliable information about COVID-19 vaccines.
- ▶ Patient conversations with clinicians result in higher vaccination rates.
- ▶ Some patients visit their dental providers more often than their medical providers. Dental visits provide a touchpoint during which patients and their providers can have conversations about the vaccine.
- ▶ Conversations over multiple visits are often necessary to increase vaccine acceptance.



Tools to support conversations with patients about the COVID-19 vaccine

- ▶ **American Dental Association toolkit, “Patient Return: Talking with Your Patients about COVID-19 Vaccines”** (available only to ADA members). This toolkit includes:
 - Talking points to help you communicate effectively with your patients.
 - Take-home fact sheets for patients.
 - FAQs.
 - Office signage.
 - Sample outreach emails and suggestions for social media.
 - A list of additional resources.
- ▶ **CareOregon handout, “COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective”:**
 - [English](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
 - [Chinese](#)
 - [Russian](#)
 - [Vietnamese](#)
- ▶ **Oregon Health Authority fact sheets for patients:**
 - Why get the vaccine?: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
 - COVID-19 vaccine facts: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
 - What to know before you get vaccinated: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
 - Where can I get my COVID-19 vaccine?: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)
- ▶ **Resource for vaccines conversations:** Poland, C.M., Matthews, A. K. S., & Poland, G. A. (2021) *“Improving COVID-19 vaccine acceptance: Including insights from human decision-making under conditions of uncertainty and human-centered design.”* Vaccine, 39, 1547-1550.

Contact oralhealth@careoregon.org for additional information on materials and resources.

