

Community Dialogue Activity

A.C.T. I: Vaccine Conversation Scenarios

Scenario A: “A Conversation with Youth about Vaccine Side Effects”

Description:

It’s another day at the youth shelter. You are asking youth if they have gotten vaccinated. One says no because they are worried about vaccine side effects.

Script:

Provider/Staff Member: Have you all gotten vaccinated yet?

Youth: Nah, I heard the side effects are terrible.

Recommended Talking Points:

- Side effects are common concern for a lot of people. Affirm the youth’s concern and say the side effects are likely a combination of history of prior exposure to other coronaviruses or to COVID-19, age, and genetics (everyone is different).
- State that side effects may last up to 48-72 hours and may interrupt your usual activities. The vaccine might give you some limited side effects but unlike an actual COVID-19 infection, the vaccine will not lead to coughing, shortness of breath, hospitalization, needing to be in an ICU, long-haul symptoms or death.
- You can explain the different treatments for side effects such as: rest, fluids, tylenol/ibuprofen (if no contraindications), compress on the arm.
- Additionally, if you don’t get side effects it does not mean you are not protected.
- Reiterate that it’s important for them to get vaccinated:
 - To prevent getting hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.
 - To prevent getting sick from COVID-19.
 - To prevent giving COVID-19 to people you live with, work with, love, or interact with.
 - To prevent the development of variants that may be resistant to vaccines

Resources:

- [Greater Than COVID](#) - “What about side effects from the COVID vaccines”
- [CDC: About COVID-19](#)
- [CDC: How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [CDC: Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

Scenario B: “A Conversation between a Staff Member and Youth about Variants and Vaccine Development”

Description:

A staff member found an appointment for their youth but the youth is hesitant about getting it because it might not be effective against variants and it was made too fast for their comfort level.

Script:

Staff Member: Hey, I just saw this appointment for the vaccine. Would you be interested in signing up?

Youth: Thanks, but I'm worried it won't be even worth it. I've been seeing on the news about the South Africa and UK variants making the vaccine useless. I also don't trust how fast they made it. So, what's the point?

Recommended Talking Points:

- Affirm that their concern(s) is common from most people.
- Start by explaining the reasons why they should get the vaccine:
 - To prevent getting hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.
 - To prevent getting sick from COVID-19.
 - To prevent giving COVID-19 to people you live with, work with, love, or interact with.
 - To prevent the development of variants that may be resistant to vaccines.
- Explain how the vaccine was made safely and have been effective:
 - Clinical trials found that the vaccines helped prevent most people from getting COVID-19.
 - New research is suggesting that this is also true in the real world. No vaccine is 100% effective, so it is possible for some vaccinated people to be infected; however, vaccines may still protect these people from serious illness. Vaccines are most effective 2 weeks after the last (or single) dose.
 - Over 189 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the U.S. as of April 2021.
 - A very small number of people have experienced severe allergic reactions to the vaccine. As a result, you will be asked to wait at the vaccination site for 15-20 minutes after you receive the vaccine.
 - The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was put on hold from April 13 to April 23, 2021 to review a very rare blood clotting disease possibly associated with the vaccine. *(TBD) This disease is incredibly rare, however, those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the prior three weeks and who have severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath should seek medical care.*
- Next start talking about what is a variant:
 - A variant is a slightly different type of the virus that have had the chance to develop every time a new person became infected with the virus (i.e., each time the virus is copied).
 - Variants that are more effective at making new people sick are more likely to be successful.
 - Variants are generally more infectious (i.e., people who have those variants are more contagious to others); some variants are more likely to make you very sick or die.
- What do variants mean for vaccination?
 - So far, vaccines protect against hospitalizations and deaths due to variants.
 - It is possible that a variant will be able to be resistant to vaccine.
 - The best way to prevent resistance is to prevent new infections, since each person infected has a chance for a new virus with a new mutation to develop (i.e., vaccinations and standard precautions, like mask wearing and physical distancing.)

Resources:

- [Greater Than COVID](#) - "What you need to know about the COVID Vaccines and New Variants"
- [HHS Video](#) - Vaccines: How Do We Know They Are Safe?
- [CDC: About COVID-19](#)
- [CDC: How COVID-19 Spreads](#)
- [CDC: About the Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19](#)
- [CDC: Ensuring Vaccine Safety in the U.S.](#)
- [NY Times](#): Can the Covid Vaccine Protect Me Against Virus Variants?

Scenario C: “A Conversation with Provider Team and Staff Members about How to Support Youth to Get Vaccinated”

Description:

Staff Members are feeling overwhelmed and have come to you because it's been challenging vaccinating the youth at your center.

Script:

Staff Member 1: It's been so hard to try to get them to be vaccinated. I know it's important but I'm so overwhelmed and I don't know enough information when they ask questions.

Staff Member 2: Yeah, I agree. They don't seem interested. What can we do?

Recommended Talking Points:

- Start by affirming their concerns and thank them for their hard work in these unprecedented times.
- Give them the handout about vaccines(attached) and direct them to some of the resources listed below.
- Tell them it's important to keep encouraging youth and people experiencing homelessness to get vaccinated because:
 - PEH have a 30% greater chance of dying if infected than the housed population
 - YEH have higher risk of conditions that put them at risk of negative outcomes, like hospitalization or death, from COVID-19 vaccination than housed youth
- Begin a discussion about some best practices for your center based on what is listed:
 - Solicit youth input in designing and getting feedback on efforts.
 - Customize approach to different subgroups of youth.
 - Ensure eligibility of all PEH.
 - Bring vaccines to service sites and places where YEH spend time.
 - Collect demographic data to monitor equitable access.
 - Provide incentives for getting vaccinated.
 - Provide respite site for youth experiencing side effects.
 - Provide transportation for both vaccine doses (if two).
 - Provide several reminders (text, email, phone, outreach) for second vaccine.
 - Offer single-dose vaccine to those who prefer it, if available.
 - Enlist vaccine ambassadors.
 - Offer opportunities to ask questions of trusted sources.
- Ask if any of these could be applied to our program and begin drafting up a process of what you can utilize in your organization.

Resources:

- [“Bringing covid-19 vaccines to high-risk populations—like those who are homeless—requires a tailored approach”](#) (Adapted from University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative.)

Scenario D: “A Conversation with Staff Member and Young Person on Choosing the Right Vaccine”

Description:

A young person is ready to get the vaccine, but they have questions about how to get it and which one to get. They have come to this staff person because they trust them.

Script:

Staff Member: Hey what's up?

Youth: Hey, I'm thinking about getting the vaccine when I'm eligible for it, but I'm not sure where to go or which one to get. I heard they don't have the J & J one anymore.

Recommended Talking Points:

- Congratulate the young person on thinking about getting the vaccine and their commitment to protecting the people they love by doing so.
- Let them know that as of April 19, 2021 everyone 16 and older is eligible for the COVID-10 vaccine.
- Let them know that regardless of which vaccine, they should get to access to a vaccine as soon as possible.
 - They should get whichever vaccine they feel comfortable with.
 - All vaccines provide a high level of protection against death and hospitalization.
 - All of the vaccines are much safer than not being vaccinated.
- Explore the vaccine handout to review the different types of vaccines and what they do.
- Work on scheduling an appointment for the vaccine with them:
 - Go to [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov)
 - If you're based in CA check out: www.vaccinespotter.org
 - <https://vaccinefinder.org/search/>
 - Walmart just opened up sites--check it out
 - Non-Kaiser members also can get the vaccine if you want to call in
 - It also depends who you call on the phone and the time you refresh pages

Resources:

- [Greater Than COVID](#) - “Let’s talk about the different COVID vaccines”
- [CDC: Different COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [NY Times](#): How 9 COVID 19 Vaccines Work

More scenarios can be added based on the context of the organization or community that you are implementing this activity. Check out our Common Concerns Handout for more answers youth or staff might have questions related to the COVID-19 Vaccine.