

Need Help Responding to Vaccine-Hesitant Parents?

Science-based materials are available from these respected organizations

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

Healthcare providers can find numerous resources on the AAP's website to help with parents and caregivers who have questions about vaccinating their child at www.healthychildren.org/english/safety-prevention/immunizations/pages/default.aspx. When parents cannot be convinced, consider using AAP's Refusal to Vaccinate form at www.aap.org/en-us/documents/immunization_refusaltovaccinate.pdf.

California Department of Public Health

The Immunization Branch of the California Department of Public Health has developed several excellent provider pieces that discuss common questions parents may have regarding vaccines for their children. These include

- "Vaccine Safety: Answers to Parents' Top Questions" – www.eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-916.pdf
- "Community Immunity" – www.eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1056.pdf

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Among CDC's many online immunization resources is the "Parent's Guide to Childhood Immunization," a 64-page booklet that can be ordered or printed at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/parents-guide. In addition, visit CDC's "Talking to Parents about Vaccines" web section at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html.

Other CDC materials, designed to help healthcare providers work with hesitant parents, include the following:

- "If You Choose Not to Vaccinate Your Child, Understand the Risks and Responsibilities" – www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/downloads/not-vacc-risks-color-office.pdf
- "Infant Immunizations FAQs" – www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/parent-questions.html

Immunization Action Coalition (IAC)

IAC's Talking about Vaccines web section provides healthcare professionals with top vaccination resources from trusted sources such as CDC, AAP, IAC, VEC, and many more. Visit www.immunize.org/talking-about-vaccines. Refer parents to IAC's website for the public at www.vaccineinformation.org.

IAC has developed several patient handouts for vaccine-hesitant parents. These include:

- "Clear Answers and Smart Advice About Your Baby's Shots," an excerpt from the popular book "Baby 411" by Dr. Ari Brown – www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2068.pdf
- "Decision to Not Vaccinate My Child" – www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4059.pdf
- "Reliable Sources of Immunization Information: Where Parents Can Go to Find Answers!" – www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4012.pdf
- "Vaccines Work!" – www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4037.pdf

Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins University

The Institute for Vaccine Safety collects vaccine-specific safety information. Of particular interest is its "Components of Vaccines" section, which contains tables specifying the contents of various vaccines: www.vaccinesafety.edu/components.htm.

Vaccinate Your Family (formerly Every Child By Two)

Created by Vaccine Your Family, www.vaccinateyourfamily.org/questions-about-vaccines focuses on answering parents' commonly asked questions about vaccines. It features video clips and links to current vaccine news stories.

Vaccine Education Center (VEC) Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

VEC offers handouts in English and Spanish as well as four colorful booklets covering immunization of infants, teens, and adults, as well as one about vaccine safety. These educational materials can be downloaded at www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/resources. VEC has developed a number of patient handouts covering vaccine topics of interest. These include the following:

- "Vaccine Safety: Are Vaccines Safe?" – www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-safety/are-vaccines-safe
- "Vaccine Safety: Dosing Safety" – www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-safety/dosing-safety
- "Vaccine Safety: Immune System and Health" – www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-safety/immune-system-and-health
- "Vaccine Ingredients" – www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-ingredients

For parents with concerns about vaccines and autism

AAP has issued a statement that can be printed at www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/Autism/Pages/Where-We-Stand-Autism.aspx. Parents may wish to investigate further at www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/Autism/Pages/default.aspx. IAC also recommends these books:

- *Autism's False Prophets: Bad Science, Risky Medicine, and the Search for a Cure*, by Paul A. Offit, MD
- *Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism*, by Roy Richard Grinker, PhD

And, here are two more well-researched handouts for parents, one from IAC and another from VEC:

- "MMR Vaccine Does Not Cause Autism: Examine the Evidence!" – www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4026.pdf
- "Vaccines and Autism: What you should know" – <https://media.chop.edu/data/files/pdfs/vaccine-education-center-autism.pdf>