What do I do if my patients don’t want to talk about the vaccine?

Encourage patients who are ready for vaccination & provide them with resources.

With hesitant patients, use motivational interviewing to explore concerns and discuss vaccination.

Respect the wishes of patients who refuse vaccine information. Forcing discussion can undermine trust & make future conversations harder.

Patients present at different stages of vaccine acceptance: ready (prepared); hesitant (contemplating); or refusal (pre-contemplation).

- Encourage patients who are ready for vaccination & provide them with resources.
- With hesitant patients, use motivational interviewing to explore concerns and discuss vaccination.
- Respect the wishes of patients who refuse vaccine information. Forcing discussion can undermine trust & make future conversations harder.

For more tips & resources, please see the VACCINE COMMUNICATION TIPS & SOURCES section at the bottom of the page.
Some data shows it’s best to not try to debunk vaccine myths unless explicitly asked about them, but if patients ask about it, you should have a good response! Info taken from CDC COVID Vaccine Myths Page.

Will getting a COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on viral tests used to see if you have a current infection.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or would like to have a baby one day?

Yes. If you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or want to get pregnant in the future, you should get a COVID-19 vaccine. There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. For more OB-GYN related FAQs, please visit ACOG.

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated for COVID-19?

Yes, you should be vaccinated & boosted regardless of if you already had COVID-19. Research does not yet show how long protection from getting sick again lasts. Although rare, it is possible that you could be re-infected with the virus. Studies do show that vaccination provides a strong boost in protection in people who had COVID-19. Talk to your doctor about when is best for you to get a shot - typically after symptoms resolve but up to 90 days in those who had monoclonal antibody treatment.

Should I get a booster shot even with the possibility of new variants or more boosters in the future?

YES. The COVID-19 vaccines continue to be highly effective in reducing risk of severe disease & death, even against new variants. The vaccines are even more effective when patients receive a booster dose. Current recommendations are to receive either the Pfizer or Moderna booster 5 months after their 2nd dose (or 2 months after J&J).

Do any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States shed or release their components?

No. Vaccine shedding only occurs when it contains a weakened version of the virus - the vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. do not. mRNA & viral vector are the available types of vaccines.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA.

MORE INFO ON COMMON Qs & MYTHS:

CDC Vaccine FAQs: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html
Fulton County COVID-19 hotline: 404-613-8150, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays
Georgia Department of Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline: 888-357-0169