

# COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Guide

*One of the primary vaccine barriers is vaccine hesitancy. In order to address this, it is important to understand some specific reasons for hesitancy and how to engage in dialogue with those individuals. Some identified reasons and dialogue strategies are below.*

*See also CDC's [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for more talking points.*

## Talking Points



I'm worried about the cost of the vaccine.

- All COVID vaccines are free of charge for Marylanders



I am worried about the side-effects of the vaccines.

- Some patients experience mild side effects after receiving the vaccine
- Side-effects pale in comparison to the chance of you, or a loved one, contracting COVID-19 and falling seriously ill
- Side-effects do not include contracting COVID-19 or other serious health conditions
- All research indicates that getting the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19



I don't think I need the COVID vaccine.

- The new rapidly spreading Delta variant is very contagious and everyone unvaccinated is vulnerable to contracting the virus
- This vaccination campaign is aimed to achieve population immunity and can only be achieved if enough people get vaccinated
- Even if a patient is not a high-risk individual, they can still continue the spread of the virus by not being vaccinated
- Individuals who already contracted COVID-19 do not enjoy the same levels of protection than if they are fully immunized. Re-infection has been documented in some instances and new variants of the disease continue to be uncovered

# Talking Points



No one is really getting COVID anymore, so I don't need the vaccine.

- People are still contracting the COVID-19 virus across the country
- The Delta variant of COVID-19 is 50% more contagious than other strains of the virus
- People that are unvaccinated make up 97% of COVID cases in Maryland, 89% of COVID hospitalizations, and 89% of deaths due to COVID-19



I have a health condition and am concerned about my safety.

- If you have concerns about a specific health condition, you can always consult your doctor
- Individuals with underlying conditions including diabetes, lung conditions, and obesity, are even more at risk of falling seriously ill or death after contracting COVID-19
- Each of the clinical trials included individuals with a broad range of conditions in testing both the efficacy and safety of the vaccines



I don't trust the government.

- The vaccine is not a product of any public entities
- From development to administration, all three vaccines were done by private companies and individuals at the forefront of the scientific community and biotechnology



I don't want the vaccine, because I don't want to have a microchip implanted in me.

- The COVID vaccine doesn't contain any technology including microchips or software
- All vaccine ingredients are publicly listed on the FDA and CDC website



I don't think the vaccine works.

- The three approved vaccines are the most effective way to protect against COVID-19
- Tens of thousands individuals received each of the vaccines in robust trials
- Each of the vaccines has been taken by millions of Americans
- The results during this vaccination campaign have proven to be highly effective, cutting down on infection and hospitalization

# Talking Points



The vaccine was developed quickly, I want to wait and see if it is safe.

- The quick development of the vaccine was not due to any corner-cutting and followed the [standard FDA approval process](#) as every vaccine before
- Researchers had previously been studying coronaviruses for decades and were able to get a head start in the development based on that research
- No vaccination research campaign has received more money in such a short amount of time. Billions of dollars in funding was spent on accelerating the research efforts
- The government granted the ability to begin production of the leading vaccine candidates before approval. Meaning once authorized, the vaccines could be distributed immediately



I am concerned about dangerous blood clots from the vaccines.

- The CDC and FDA are continually monitoring for potential adverse reactions in all vaccines
- This potential side effect from the J&J vaccine is extremely rare (far rarer than the chance of falling seriously ill from COVID-19)
- Our practice will be monitoring patients who receive the J&J vaccine - early detection is key
- There are two other available vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer) made with different technology than the J&J vaccine: blood clotting side effects have not been shown for these two vaccines
- If you received the J&J vaccine within the past three weeks and develop [symptoms listed on the CDC site](#), contact your doctor



I am expecting or planning a family in the near future, or recently started a family, and am not sure about the vaccine.

- The [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#), “recommends vaccination for all eligible people who may consider future pregnancy” and notes that “unfounded claims linking COVID-19 vaccines to infertility have been scientifically disproven.”
- [CDC data analysis](#) has shown no safety concern for pregnant people or their babies and [CDC fully recommends](#) the COVID vaccine for pregnant and breastfeeding people.
- All three vaccines are safe for women considering starting a family in the future
- If you are not comfortable receiving the J&J vaccine due to the rare blood clotting side effects, the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are available and blood clotting side effects have not been identified for these vaccines