Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

What sparks vaccine hesitancy?
- History of medical racism which sparked mistrust and distrust of government institutions
- Low health literacy and concerns about potential costs
- Unknowns about side effects if in a special health status population

Dental teams are well-positioned to talk with diverse populations of patients about total health prevention.

Why should dentists discuss vaccine hesitancy?
1. To keep their communities and staff healthy and build trust
2. To promote total disease prevention for all patients

As a dentist, you have opportunities to address vaccine hesitancy for diverse populations, including vaccine safety for patients who are pregnant and for individuals who have faced medical discrimination or have special needs.

Where can I learn more?
- CDC's Division of Oral Health COVID-19 statement for prevention and HPV resources
- California Department of Public Health COVID-19 resources for children with disabilities
- Vaccine Overview from the California Dental Association
- American Dental Association COVID-19 guidance

What are the dentist's goals?
- LEARN about the latest vaccination information for flu, COVID, and HPV
- SHARE with their patients
- PREVENTion opportunities for a patient’s total health

- ASK about a patient’s vaccine hesitancy
- ANSWER their questions about COVID-19 and HPV vaccination
- ASSIST with receiving the vaccine!

Dentists should LEARN about the latest vaccination information for flu, COVID, and HPV, SHARE with their patients, and discuss PREVENTion opportunities for a patient’s total health.

Learn more about COVID-19 and considerations for special populations.

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