



PEDIATRIC VACCINES AND OTHER COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2022-23

August 29, 2022











# **Today's Presenters**

### **Office of Head Start:**

Tala Hooban— Deputy Director, Commander (CDR), U.S. Public Health Service, OHS Marco Beltran DrPH — Senior Program Specialist/Federal Project Officer, OHS

### **Program Representatives:**

Parents In Community Action, Inc. (PICA)-- Hennepin County, Minnesota Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST)– South Texas

### National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety:

Dr. Jill Sells – Medical Advisor, National Center on Health, Behavioral Health and Safety

Dr. Abbey Alkon- Subject Matter Expert in Infectious Diseases

Steve Shuman- Director of Outreach and Distance Learning







# Agenda

### **Office of Head Start:**

COVID-19 FAQs for PY22-23

### **Program Presentations on Pediatric Vaccines:**

PICA CACOST

### **NCHBHS Presentation:**

Changes in CDC K-12/ECE Guidance

**Risk Reduction Strategies** 

FAQs

Resources







# **COVID-19 FAQs**







# What are allowable virtual program enhancements?

Examples of allowable virtual services, which include, but are not limited to:

Virtual Services for Flexible Use Indefinitely

- Policy Council meetings
- Governing body meetings
- Parenting curricula meetings
- Parent meetings
- Home visits for medically fragile children
- Intakes
- Coaching software







## Can programs include in their policies and procedures the use of virtual makeup days throughout the year?

Yes. Given the supplies and virtual accessibility infrastructure that many programs built during the COVID-19 pandemic, in the event of COVID-19 and/or weather-related building closures, programs can employ virtual services for continuity purposes, rather than providing virtual make-up days at the end of the program year.

Programs can provide virtual make-up days for COVID-19 and weather-related closures so long as it is in their policies and procedures. Programs should make reasonable determinations if families have ongoing access to internet and the technology required to make temporary virtual services is a viable option. For programs that do not employ virtual services during closures, we encourage them to make up those days during the program year to remain in compliance with the duration requirements.







How should programs implement the vaccine requirement for partners, such as school districts or other partnerships in service delivery at this point in the year, understanding that contracts and MOUs are in place?

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership are covered to the same extent as standard Head Start and Early Head Start programs. For other provider relationships, programs should work to resolve issues with contracts or MOUs, including for staff working with enrolled children, that arise from the Interim Final Rule with Comment Period (IFC) in a manner that minimizes disruption of services to children and families for the 2022- 2023 Program Year. Programs should make decisions that cause the least amount of disruption and support programs to safely get through the Program Year.







# Does the vaccine requirement apply to Part B/C providers (special education and related service providers for preschooler and infants and toddlers)?

No. These providers are not covered by the vaccine requirement. Part B/C providers are not considered staff of the Head Start program and there is no contractual relationship.







# Are children required to mask 100% of the time in classrooms? How should programs handle situations where kids take off their masks?

Children should never be disciplined for not wanting to wear a mask. Treat mask-wearing as an emerging skill. Help children learn how to wear a mask consistently to be healthy and safe by showing them how to wear their mask so it fits securely over their mouth, nose, and chin.

Help children find a mask that is comfortable and that they can keep on all the time. Give positive feedback to children for their efforts and keep it playful! Additionally, children would not be masked when eating, drinking, or napping. We encourage programs to review <u>Face Masks in Head Start Programs</u> on the ECLKC.

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# Are children required to have the COVID-19 vaccine to be enrolled in Head Start programs?

No. At this time, the COVID-19 vaccination is not required for enrolled Early Head Start or Head Start children unless required by state, tribal, territorial or local regulations.









View the Latest COVID-19 Updates from the Office of Head Start

Early Childhood Learning & Kno

Search this Website



#### Coronavirus

#### Expand All

#### OHS COVID-19 Updates

- Vaccinating the Head Start Community
- Vaccine and Mask Requirements to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start Programs
- Head Start Forward Campaign Overview COVID-19 Administrative and Fiscal Flexibilities
- Operating In-person Services
- Operating Remote or Virtual Services
- Supporting Children and Families During COVID-19

### **OHS COVID-19 Updates**

Effective July 15, 2022, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the public health emergency that was initially declared on Jan. 27, 2020, and has been renewed disease 2019 (COVID-19) has deeply impacted Head Start and Early Head Start programs, enr their communities. The Secretary has the authority, under Section 319 of the Public Health Ser public health emergency 🖓 exists. Once a declaration is made, it remains in effect for 90 days a

Effective Nov. 30, 2021, the Head Start Program Performance Standards reflects staff vaccina requirements. Requiring all Head Start staff, some contractors, and volunteers to be vaccinated universal masking for all individuals 2 years of age and older, is critical as we work together to a comprehensive services by providing healthy and safe environments for everyone. Check out t resources on vaccine and masking to learn more about how the requirements announced in the Comment Period (IFC) 🖾 will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

This section is regularly updated with guidance and resources from the Office of Head Start (O support staff, children, and families during this challenging time.

#### Latest Updates

7/1/22: Joint Letter About COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Ages 6 Months to







# **Program Presentations on Pediatric Vaccines– PICA**







### **MEET OUR TEAM**



### **Candee Melin** Deputy Director



Nadia Higgins PICA Public Health Nurse

# PARENTS IN COMMUNITY ACTION (PICA)

- Hennepin County, Minnesota
- More than 50 years of service
- 2,500 families



## **PLAN AND HOPE**

- 17 clinics
- 1,600 people vaccinated
- With state, county, and city public health departments



## **LESSONS LEARNED**

- Just do it don't worry about turnout
- Keep doing it word of mouth will build
- Text to spread the word
- Have a live person book appointments
- Incentives can work
- Make it fun



# **CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS**

- Rely on trusted experts
- Seek out one-on-one conversations
- Share personal stories
- Tread lightly
- Clinics support conversations



## **NEW CHALLENGES WITH UNDER 5**

Lost sense of urgency

No more incentives

Confusing, lengthy vaccination schedule

Hesitancy about community setting



### **OVERHEARD**

"I wouldn't have gotten vaccinated if it weren't for PICA."

"Next time, I'll bring my mother."

"I'm scared." "How do you know it's safe?" "I'm so relieved."

# **Program Presentations on Pediatric Vaccines- CACOST**









From: Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST)



# Meet our Team



Elena Esquivel Head Start Director



Michelle Teixeira, RN Head Start Registered Nurse



Sarah M. Soliz, RN, BSN Quality & Compliance Officer

# Objectives

- 1. CACOST Service Area
- 2. Pediatric vaccinestrategies that worked inour community
- 3. Additional Local Strategies





### VISION

We envision a vibrant community where everyone has access to quality health care, education, housing and employment.

### MISSION

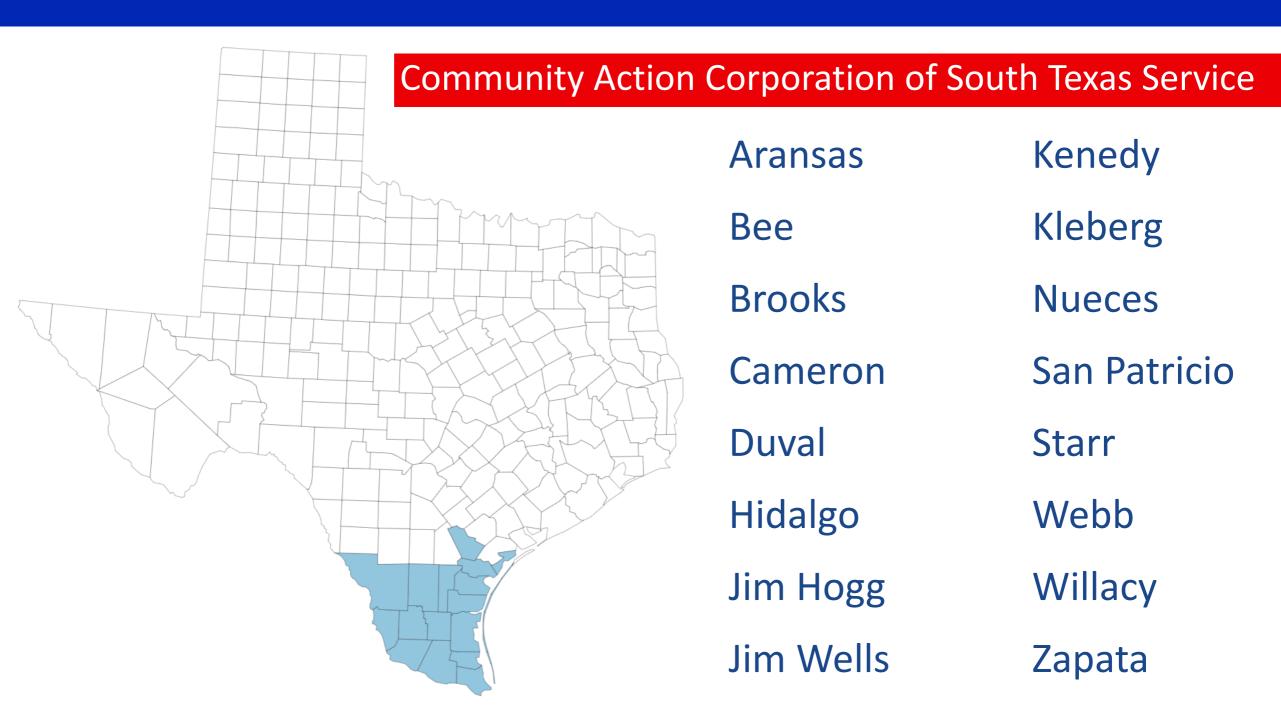
Our mission is to continuously improve the lives of South Texans by providing high quality health care, education, housing and economic opportunities to reduce poverty through services and partnerships.

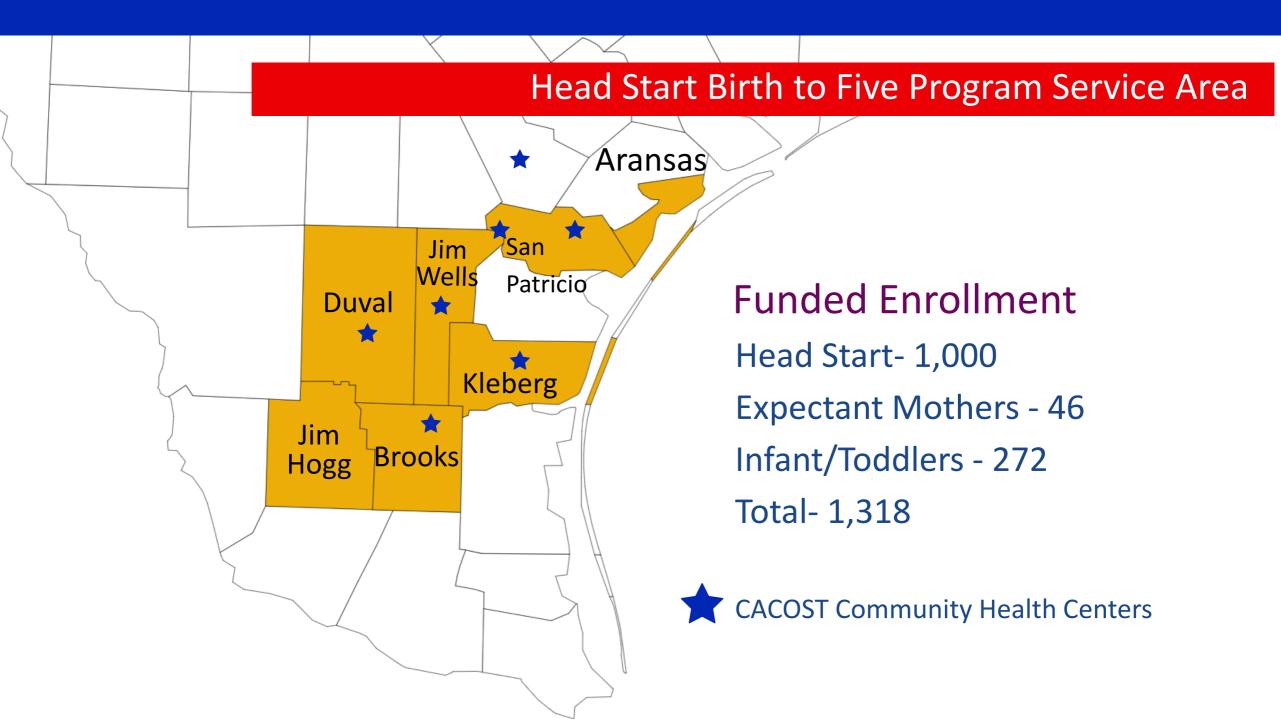
### CORE VALUES

Accountability - Excellence - Integrity -Quality Service - Teamwork

# **5** Service Divisions

- Head Start Birth to Five
- Early Childhood Intervention
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Energy Programs
- Community Services
  - Meals on Wheels
  - Community Services Block Grant
  - Healthy Kids (Medicaid & CHIP Assistance)
  - Housing Assistance
  - Teen Pregnancy Prevention









# VACONESAVALABLE

for children ages 6 months and older \*

## HEALTH CENTERS

### WITH PEDIATRIC SERVICES

#### BEEVILLE HEALTH CENTER

301 S. Hillside Drive Ste. 5,6,8,15 361-362-0307

### COMMUNITY ACTION PEDIATRIC CENTER SINTON 1133 E. Sinton Street

361-364-4486

### FALFURRIAS HEALTH CENTER

1302 S. SAINT MARYS ST. STE 2A & STE D 361-325-9404

### KINGSVILLE HEALTH CENTER

1311 E. General Cavazos Drive Ste 303 & Ste C

361-592-3237

# Partnership: Head Start and Community Health Center



CACOST Mobile Health Center Team

- Covid-19 Testing for employees and students
- Vaccination for employees and students
- Collaboration on policy and procedure

# Strategic Timeline



### June 13, 2022

Dr. O'Ryan presented to Office of Head Start: Pediatric Vaccine Success Stories from the Field

June 17, 2022

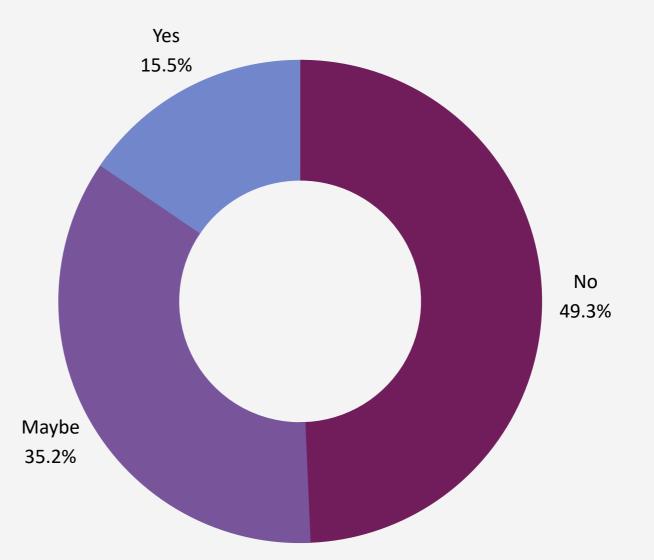
CACOST surveyed Early Head Parents and received 71 responses

Dr. O'Ryan, MD, FAAP Pediatrician



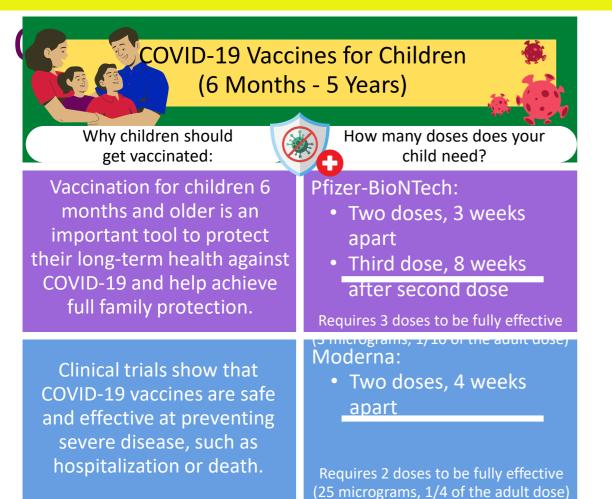


# Early Head Start Parents surveyed: Are you going to vaccinate your child?



# **Methods of Education**

# Flyers & Community



# Word of Mouth

# Social Media Outreach











# **NEXT STEPS**

- COLLECT interest data from Head Start families
- Implement education plan utilizing the data collected
- Vaccinate Head Start children utilizing the Medical Mobile

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## National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety

# Keeping Children, Families, and Staff Healthy and Safe from COVID-19







# **NCHBHS Presenters**



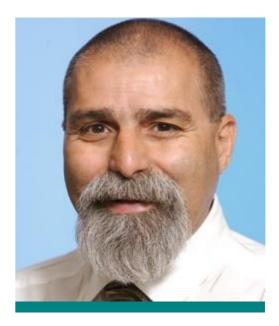
### Jill Sells, MD, FAAP

Medical Advisor, HBHS, Education Development Center; Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington School of Medicine



### Abbey Alkon, RN, PNP, PhD

Subject Matter Expert in Infectious Disease, HBHS, Professor, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Nursing



**Steve Shuman, BS** Director of Outreach and Distance Learning, HBHS, Education Development Center





## **NCHBHS Outline**

- Overview and key changes to new CDC K–12/ECE guidance
- Risk reduction strategies
- Selected frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- HBHS resources





#### CDC Updated Guidance for K-12 and ECE Programs Overview: Aug. 11, 2022

- CDC guidance is meant to supplement any federal, state, tribal, local, or territorial health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.
- The layered prevention strategies can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.





#### CDC Updated Guidance for K-12 and ECE Programs Key Changes: August 11, 2022

# Cohorts Managing exposures Managing cases: isolation Responding to outbreaks





## Cohorts

- CDC removed COVID-19 cohort recommendation.
- Group size still matters!
  - Head Start Program
     Performance Standards include specific ratios and group size.
  - Small, consistent groups are associated with quality care.







## Managing Exposure

What to do if you were exposed to COVID-19

- Recommendations are the same regardless of vaccination status.
- Take precautions for 10 full days, including wearing a mask.
- Get tested at least 5 full days after exposure.
- No need to stay home (quarantine) if exposed to COVID-19.
- Test immediately and follow isolation guidance if you develop symptoms.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html





### **Managing Cases: Isolation**

What to do if you have COVID-19 (test positive or have symptoms)

- Recommendations are the same regardless of vaccination status.
- Stay home for at least 5 days.
- Stay home for 10 days if you cannot wear a mask.
- Separate from others in your home as much as possible.
- Wear a high-quality mask if around others.
- Follow public health guidance for when to end isolation.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html





"Anyone who chooses to wear a mask or respirator should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low."





#### When Masks Are Recommended

- At high CDC COVID-19 Community Levels, masks are recommended for everyone.
- At medium and high Community Levels, masks are recommended for people at risk for severe illness.
- At all Community Levels, masks are recommended for everyone in a nurse's office or health care setting.
- At all Community Levels, masks may be worn to protect children and others at higher risk for illness.
- At all Community Levels, follow mask recommendations in exposure and isolation guidance.





## **Responding to Outbreaks**

- Add prevention strategies regardless of the CDC COVID-19 Community Level.
- People who have COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and get tested.
- People who develop symptoms during the day should wear a well-fitting mask, be isolated as much as possible until sent home, and get tested.
- Communicate with state, territorial, tribal, and/or local public health officials about strategies and guidance.





#### **Risk Reduction Strategies for CDC COVID-19 Community Levels**

#### LOW

- Stay up to date with vaccines.
- Get tested if you have symptoms.

#### MEDIUM

- Stay up to date with vaccines.
- Get tested if you have symptoms.
- If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your health care provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions.

#### **HIGH**

- Stay up to date with vaccines.
- Get tested if you have symptoms.
- Wear a mask indoors when in public.
- More precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness.



https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html



## **Risk Reduction Strategies**

#### Infectious Disease Prevention Strategies

- Conduct daily health checks.
- Stay up to date with vaccinations.
- Stay home when sick.
- Increase fresh air.
- Wash hands.

lational Center or

- Cover mouths when coughing.
- Clean and disinfect.

#### **COVID-19–Specific Prevention Strategies**

- Wear a mask.
- Improve ventilation systems.
- Test after exposure or if symptoms start.
- Manage exposures.
- Follow isolation guidelines.
- Seek guidance from public health agencies.



Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety



## How Programs Can Be Prepared

- Use your Health Services Advisory Committee and community partners.
- Monitor local levels of COVID-19.
- Apply risk reduction strategies to limit the impact of COVID-19 on children, families, and staff.
- Help families and staff stay up to date on vaccines.
- Keep masks available for use in programs.
- Help families and staff access testing.



https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/physical-health/article/face-masks-head-start-programs



#### Caring for Our Children (CFOC) COVID-19 Modifications

- New guidance to reduce the risk of COVID-19 is included in the CFOC modifications.
- CFOC website's homepage has a list of the modified standards and appendices: <u>https://nrckids.org/CFOC</u>

- 3.3 Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting
  - Appendix J: Selecting an Appropriate Sanitizer or Disinfectant
  - Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting







## **Supporting COVID-19 Vaccine Access**

- Encourage families to contact their primary care provider.
- Identify community vaccine providers and resources, such as community health centers, hospitals, pharmacies, and COVID-19 vaccination sites.
- Explore opportunities to partner with community agencies to provide on-site vaccination clinics.
- Visit <u>https://www.vaccines.gov/</u> to find COVID-19 vaccine locations.



## Frequently Asked Questions







#### **Are COVID-19 vaccines free for everyone?**

- YES, COVID-19 vaccines are free to everyone 6 months and older living in the United States.
- This is true regardless of immigration status and includes people who do not have health insurance.





## How long do people need to wait to get vaccinated after having COVID-19?

- Generally, people can get vaccinated after their symptoms are gone.
- If you get COVID-19, waiting 90 days to get vaccinated is no longer recommended.
- People who have been severely ill, have underlying health issues, or have any questions should talk with their health care provider about the timing of their COVID-19 vaccinations.





## If a child under 2 gets COVID-19, do they stay home for 10 days or can they come back in 5 days?

- A child who has COVID-19 and cannot wear a mask, including those under 2, needs to stay in isolation at home for 10 days.
- Isolation guidelines are the same regardless of vaccination status.





## If a child older than 2 years or an adult gets COVID-19, do they stay home for 10 days?

- Isolation may end after 5 days in some cases.
  - If they never had symptoms.
  - If they have no fever for 24 hours and symptoms are improving.
- Anyone with COVID-19 should wear a mask for 10 days.
  - Earlier removal of a mask may be possible with testing following public health guidance.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html



## **New COVID-19** Resources

COVID-19 Vaccines for Young Children

Children who are 6 months old and older can now get the COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-59 vaccines lower the chance of getting very size from the visus. Vaccinated children are loss accines lower the chance of getting very ack from the vers. Vaccinated chrome are red or die form COVID-19 than those who are not vaccinuted. When more people are

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nes Call young character (set) — Visor and Noderna — make COVID.19 vaccines for children. Young children get the volate children and south, but in smaller dose. The chart has more information about

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that children 6 months of age and older get vaccinated.



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https://www.vecchies.gov/

(4) Office of Child Care

**COVID-19 Vaccines for Children** 6 Months and Older...

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**COVID-19 Vaccines for** Children 6 Months and Older...

Office of Child Care

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https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/physical-health/article/covid-19-general-vaccine-information

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Vaccines help protect children from serious illness and hospitalization.



Vaccinating helps protect everyone from COVID-19.

AF Motice of Office of Child Care



**Protect Your Child** 

Children 6 months and older can get a COVID-19 va



National Center on National Center on Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety

At least 8 weeks

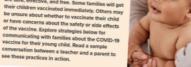
Booster 5 months

Health, Behavioral Health, and Safety



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COVID-19 vaccines are now recommended for children ages 6 months and older. The vaccines are safe, effective, and free. Some families will get



Getting Started

Versing sources Keep in mid that you may have your own thoughts, feelings, and questions about the vaccines. This conversation is focused on the family's needs. The goal is to help families get accurate information a feel comfortable discussing concerns, not to change their mind. Start by asking, "Our program is sharing the latest guidance on vaccine safety and effectiveness Would it be OK if we talk through some resources and information i have?"

If you have permission, you might say. "Nearly everyone has heard something about the vaccines What are your thoughts, questions, and feelings about COVID-19 vaccines for young children?" If the family member expresses concerns or uncertainty, you could ask, "Would you like to discus your concerns?" or "Do you have any questions?"

part contains, of our process on building relationships with the key family members in a child's life. It is a collaborative process that should be sensitive to the family's culture and language. Family engagement requires mutual respect for the roles and strengths of family members and staff.

#### Listening, and Summarizing Strategies

Lestering, end durinitie (English and an english for an angle and an angle and angle angle and angle angle and angle ang Make sure families feel heard and respected. By taking time to listen to a family's perspective and ans their questions, you can help them make the best decision for their children.





#### Understand Concerns and Questions

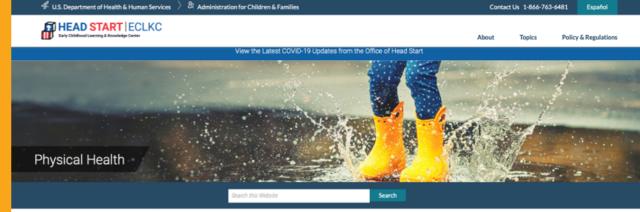
Use Relationship-based Engagement, Reflective

Summarizing can also be helpful. Make sure you're on the right track by saying something like, "Is this what you mean? ..." or "I think I heard you saying ..."

#### **COVID-19 Health Considerations**

https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/physicalhealth/article/covid-19-healthconsiderations





Home >> Physical Health

Share S Print 🖨

#### COVID-19: Health Considerations

We continue to learn new things every day about COVID-19 and the best strategies to reduce the spread of the disease. Explore these resources to find out the latest information about COVID-19, and find tools that staff can use to reduce the risk of infection for children, families, and staff in Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Explore Resources





View Resource >

View Resource +

Posters

View Resource +

View Resource >





COVID-19: Risk Reduction Strategies



Quarantine and Isolation Posters

COVID-19 Risk Reduction Strategies COVID-19 Health and Safety Checklist

and Supply List View Resource >

View Resource +



Face Masks in Head Start Programs





Tips for Working with a Ventilation Consultant

View Resource +

Caring for Children with Asthma During View Resource +

the COVID-19 Pandemic

View Resource >

## **THANK YOU**







