

Staff Testimonials: Pediatric Vaccinations

Overview

IRC has heard from COVID champions that parents are sometimes feeling understandably nervous about having their children get the COVID-19 vaccine. They would like to hear from other parents from their communities about why they decided to vaccinate their children and what their children's experiences were, including side effects (if any). In addition, parents have also expressed interested in hearing from other parents whose child(ren) are not yet eligible for the vaccine, but have made the decision to have their child(ren) vaccinated as soon as they are eligible.

Our goal is for these testimonial videos to:

1. Normalize COVID-19 vaccines for children,
2. Acknowledge the uncertainty and concerns around pediatric vaccines for parents and the whole family, and
3. Reflect the process that parents took to make the decision to have their child(ren) vaccinated (this applies to parents who have already had their child(ren) vaccinated and parents who have made the decision to have their child(ren) vaccinated as soon as they are eligible for the vaccine).

We hope these testimonials can support and encourage clients to seek out trusted, reputable sources of information to make the best decision for their children, loved ones, and their community. We want to acknowledge clients' concerns and feelings of uncertainty without contributing to mistrust and/or fear-based approaches. Therefore, we hope these videos feel informal, authentic, encouraging, and friendly.

Outline

The below outline is an example; staff and COVID champions featured in the testimonials adapted this script to their own words, experiences, and comfort level. Your staff should feel free to also adapt the below script as they see fit.



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- 1) Introduce yourself and your role at [organization].
 - *Hi, my name is _____ and I am a _____(job title) at the IRC.*
- 2) Introduce your child(ren) (please feel free to add as much or as little detail as you are comfortable with)
 - *I have two daughters, a 13-year-old and a 15-year-old.*
- 3) How has the pandemic affected your child(ren)
 - *This past year, I saw how the pandemic really affected my children. They missed going to school and attending the after-school sports they used to play. They weren't able to see their friends or attend graduation parties and birthday celebrations, and it was very hard on them. My kids also look forward to seeing their grandparents during Thanksgiving each year, but we couldn't go this year.*
- 4) Thought process in deciding to have your child(ren) vaccinated. This applies to parents who have already had their child(ren) vaccinated and parents who have made the decision to have their child(ren) vaccinated as soon as they are eligible for the vaccine.
 - *Because of the impact the pandemic had on my kids, I knew I wanted to have them vaccinated. However, I did have my concerns. I was hearing a lot from friends who were questioning whether or not children need the COVID-19 vaccine. This made me feel unsure about my decision. However, I spoke with my kids and their doctor, and we made the decision together to have them vaccinated because they would not only be protecting themselves, but also their family, friends, and peers once they are able to go back to school.*
- 5) How was the vaccine experience for your child(ren). (For parents whose children are not yet eligible for the vaccine, please skip this section).
 - *My girls are nervous when they get shots, but both said they just felt a slight pinch when they got the vaccine. They both did not have any symptoms after the first dose, but after the second dose, one of my daughters developed a slight fever that lasted for a day. After that, she felt great! My other daughter only had a sore arm for a day or two.*
- 6) Words of encouragement for parents who are deciding whether to have their child(ren) vaccinated (we want to emphasize that this is a personal choice, and we are here to



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help provide trusted information so that clients can make the best decision for themselves and their family).

- *I know there is a lot of information out there, and that this is a personal choice. It is okay, and normal, to have concerns and questions. We all want what is best for our children. I encourage you to get information from your child's pediatrician and trusted, scientific resources so you can make the right decision for you and your family.*

7) What your child(ren) can do now that they are fully vaccinated. For parents whose children are not yet eligible, please share what your child(ren) are looking forward to once they are fully vaccinated.

- *Now that my daughters are both fully vaccinated, they have been able to see some of their friends and family again. They were both very excited about going back to their sports activities again. When school starts in the fall, I will feel much more comfortable that they are fully vaccinated and protecting not only themselves, but also their teachers and classmates.*

8) Closing statements

- *These are the reasons why I chose to have my kids vaccinated. The vaccine not only protects my daughters, our family, and our community, but it also allows them to safely get back to the activities they love doing! Please stay safe and be well. Thank you!*



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