Talk with Your Patients About the COVID-19 Vaccine

As a part of the appointment setting process, people are asked several medical screening questions. Many answers suggest the person speak with a health care provider. Below are the questions to help you prepare for the inquiries. The CDC also has a resource: Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States, which will help address many of the below questions.

1) Have you ever had an immediate allergic reaction to any other vaccine or injectable therapy, an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components (including polyethylene glycol [PEG]), or an immediate allergic reaction of any severity to polysorbate?

If the answer is yes, this person cannot get any of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines. They should consider contacting their health care provider if they have questions.

2) Are you currently sick with COVID-19 or still in your isolation period following a COVID-19 infection?

If the answer is yes, the person cannot get a COVID-19 vaccine at this time, but can schedule an appointment at a later date.

3) Have you received another vaccine in the last 14 days?

If the answer is yes, the person won't be able to schedule an appointment right now, but can log back in at a later date to schedule an appointment.

4) Do you have a weakened immune system caused by something such as HIV infection or cancer or do you take immunosuppressive drugs or therapies?

If the answer is yes, the person can make an appointment but they will be advised to talk with their health care provider before getting vaccinated.

5) Do you have a bleeding disorder or are you taking a blood thinner?

If the answer is yes, the person can make an appointment but they will be advised to talk with their health care provider before getting vaccinated. See below for more information.

6) Are you pregnant?

If the answer is yes, the person can make an appointment but they will be advised to talk with their health care provider before getting vaccinated.
7) Are you breastfeeding or lactating?

If the answer is yes, the person can make an appointment but they will be advised to talk with their health care provider before getting vaccinated.

8) Have you received passive antibody therapy as treatment for COVID-19 in the past 90 days?

Vaccination should be postponed for at least 90 days to avoid interference of the antibody treatment with any immune response caused by the vaccines. This recommendation is based on the estimated half-life of monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma as part of COVID-19 treatment, as well as evidence suggesting that reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after a COVID-19 infection.

Questions may change as the registration process evolves. Please refer to the Registration and Appointment FAQs for the most up to date registration questions and answers.