



Talking to Caregivers about the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children

As educators, caregivers rely on you as a trusted partner in the growth and development of their children. Caregivers may also rely on you as a trusted resource as COVID-19 vaccines become available for their child. Below are 3 important messages to relay to caregivers, and a few tips to help you navigate potential COVID-19 vaccine conversations.



3 Important messages Educators can share with Caregivers

- 1 Return to normal school life:** Remind parents that vaccinating their child is the best way to safely keep their child's learning in-person, in-school. It will also minimize the need for their child to receive COVID-19 tests and allow their child to participate in after-school or extracurricular activities.
- 2 Vaccines are safe and effective:** Vaccines, including the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for 5 to 11-year-old children, are safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccines have undergone full evaluation in clinical trials and met the FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history, which includes studies in children. COVID-19 vaccines have been proven to prevent COVID-19 infection, severe illness, hospitalization, and death.
- 3 Talk to your child's doctor:** Caregivers may have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine or the decision to vaccinate their child that you are not prepared to answer. In these situations, it is helpful to encourage caregivers to speak directly with their child's doctor, their family physician, or local health department. Kansas has COVID-19 vaccine providers in every county within Kansas, all who are ready and willing to listen and answer caregiver questions.



Tips for talking to caregivers about the COVID-19 vaccine

- ✓ Help caregivers understand how getting their child vaccinated may positively impact their child's daily school life, and the importance of keeping children healthy and in school
- ✓ Remind caregivers that the COVID-19 vaccine their child would receive is the same vaccine that older children and adults have been receiving, just at a lower dose specifically selected for young children
- ✓ If you are willing and comfortable, share your experience with the COVID-19 vaccine or getting your child vaccinated. Firsthand experience may help put caregivers at ease
- ✓ If you are unsure about the answer to a question, refer the caregiver to the CDC website or encourage them to speak with their child's doctor or local health department