



PHARMACY TOP TIPS: CHILDHOOD VACCINATIONS

Setting your pharmacy up for success

Trusted and close to home, community pharmacies are a convenient location for children to be vaccinated for COVID-19 and influenza. Here are some quick tips for setting your pharmacy up for success when vaccinating kids.

In advance

- Allow for extra time between injections by setting up longer appointment slots (e.g., 15 mins)
- Prepare families and set expectations ahead of time (e.g., outline steps of vaccination process, include photos of the pharmacy layout on your website)
- Include additional information and resources during the booking process, such as tips to help caregivers prepare for what to expect when they arrive
- Discuss options for comfort from needle pain (e.g., numbing cream/patches applied ahead of appointment)



Your pharmacy space

- Add kid-friendly distractions into your pharmacy space (e.g., posters, activity sheets, music)
- Create private spaces where children can't see others getting the shot to minimize triggers for fear
- Ensure you have enough space/seating for everyone
- Organize your workflow to minimize time from check-in to injection



During the appointment

- Be calm, patient, positive and promote coping strategies
- Be flexible and open to personalizing approach for each child
- For families with multiple kids, be thoughtful about the order of vaccinating—science has shown having the most fearful child vaccinated first minimizes anticipatory anxiety and may make the experience easier
- Use comfort positions that offer support from caregivers (e.g., sitting on lap, giving a hug)
- Remember that taking breaks and/or rescheduling the appointment may be appropriate options

