



Continuing Vaccinations During COVID-19

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that childhood [immunizations continue to be prioritized during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Some parents may be reluctant to bring their children to a physician's office or clinic during the pandemic. To help reassure them, you may use the following messages, adapting them as needed to how your clinic is operating:

- 1. Emphasize [steps your practice is taking to keep patients and clinic staff safe](#).**
 - "We are taking several precautions to help keep our patients safe, including scheduling baby immunization visits in the morning and only seeing sick children in the afternoon."
 - "We're screening everyone who comes into the office, including taking everyone's temperature."
 - "We disinfect our clinic twice daily and exam rooms after each visit."
 - "We have designated areas of our offices to separate sick patients from healthy patients."
 - "We all wear masks at all times."
 - "We're scheduling appointments so only one patient is at the clinic at a given time."
- 2. Consider alternate ways to deliver care.**
 - "We can schedule a telehealth appointment, where I address your questions and concerns on your phone or computer, followed by a brief immunization visit to help keep your baby safe."
 - "Our clinic is offering 'drive-thru' immunizations, so you don't even have to come inside the clinic!"
- 3. Reinforce the fact that vaccine-preventable diseases will continue to be a threat to the child.**
 - "As a parent, I would not wait to immunize my baby; as your doctor, I am strongly recommending we help protect your baby from diseases that could cause harm during or after the pandemic."
- 4. Inform them that getting caught up later may not be so easy.**
 - "When Montgomery county 'reopens,' there may be many children who need to catch up on immunizations, increasing wait times for appointments. While waiting they could be exposed to dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases circulating in the community. Let's avoid that danger by keeping your child on track."

The Montgomery County Immunization Coalition (MCIC) can't thank you enough for serving our communities.

