

Supporting Vaccine Confidence in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities

SOMEONE MAY BE LOW ON VACCINE CONFIDENCE WHEN THEY ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF RECEIVING A VACCINE AND CHOOSE AGAINST IT FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR CHILDREN OR THEIR FAMILY.

Vaccine confidence varies within every population and can range from being accepting all recommended vaccines, to being unsure about one or all recommended vaccines.

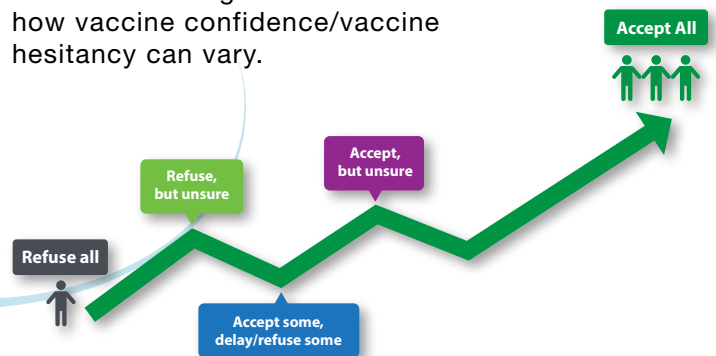
Vaccine confidence decreases when people have concerns about the benefits of a vaccine, why it is needed, its ability to prevent disease, risks, pain, and safety.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals may be more reluctant to be vaccinated or have their children vaccinated partly because of negative or culturally unsafe experiences with mainstream healthcare systems, health care professionals, and vaccine providers.



The Vaccine Hesitancy Continuum

Below is an image that shows how vaccine confidence/vaccine hesitancy can vary.



Indications that your patient may not have vaccine confidence include:

- Fear of or mistrust in public health or medical authorities
- Asking about exemptions to avoid vaccinations
- Questioning validity of the underlying science behind vaccines
- Seeking to delay or space out vaccinations
- Concerns about adverse reactions or medical complications
- Believing that getting the diseases naturally is better for their immune systems

Strategies to build vaccine confidence

- Practice culturally safe interactions including respectful listening and addressing concerns
- Build trust with the patient and allow for open dialogue
- Be confident in communicating vaccine benefits and risks
- Use motivational interviewing techniques to engage patients and caregivers
- Refer patients and caregivers to high quality and accessible health promotion resources and tools
- Provide reminders to the patient when vaccinations are due
- Check the immunization status of each patient (and family members where possible) during clinical encounters

Learn more with the following resources:

For parents: <http://bit.ly/vaccines-parents>

For adolescents: <http://bit.ly/vaccines-adolescents>

For adults: <http://bit.ly/vaccines-adults>

For those who plan to travel:

<http://bit.ly/vaccines-travellers>



Photo: iStock.com, ID: 166433708

With thanks to students J. Carroll, J. Daigle, S. MacBean, S. McKee, A. Mercey, O. Obajimi, & S. Woodstock and our reviewers.



National Collaborating Centre
for Indigenous Health
Centre de collaboration nationale
de la santé Autochtone



National Collaborating Centre
for Infectious Diseases
Centre de collaboration nationale
des maladies infectieuses

