

Chairside Vaccination Talking Points

Use this guide for tips when talking to patients on dialysis about vaccination.

Getting Started

“As your medical provider, let’s review your vaccine status. Vaccines are proven to decrease severe disease and we want you to be as protected as you can be. I highly recommend you get all the vaccines appropriate for you. I’d like to talk with you more about a few vaccines that I think are important for you.”



Pneumococcal & Influenza Vaccination Talking Points

You have a lower chance of dying if you receive both the pneumonia and flu vaccine than if you only receive one of these vaccines.

Flu

- Did you know that the flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and sometimes the lungs? It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.
- Most experts believe flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes.

Pneumococcal Pneumonia

- Vaccines prevent pneumococcal disease, which is any type of illness caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria.
- Pneumonia, an infection of the lungs, needlessly affects millions of people worldwide each year.
- Pneumonia can often be prevented and can usually be treated.
- Lower your risk of pneumonia with vaccines and other healthy living practices such as quitting smoking.

References and Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - [Key Facts about Influenza \(Flu\)](#)
 - [Pneumonia Can Be Prevented—Vaccines Can Help](#)
 - [Pneumococcal Vaccines](#)

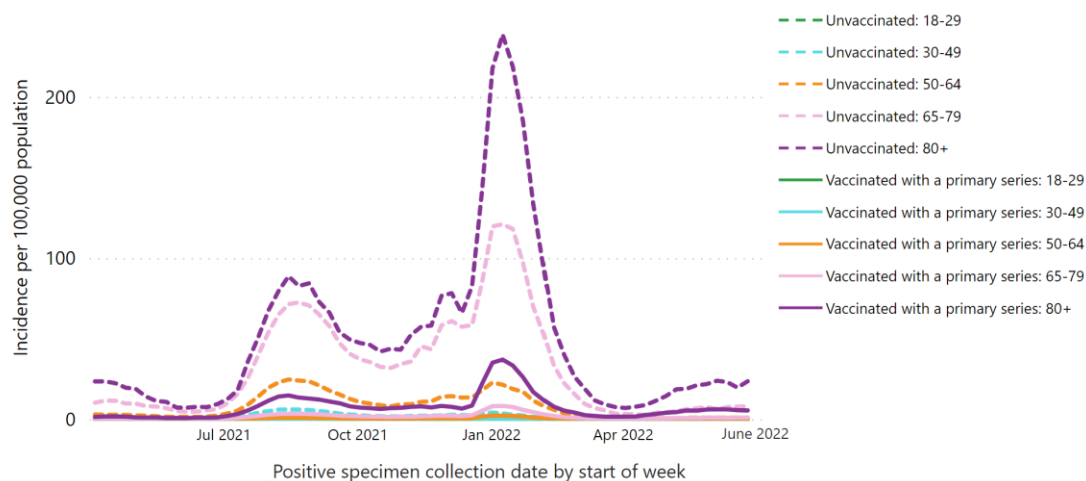
- Mo Y, Zeng J, Xiao C, Zhang L, Wang L, Lu F, Johnson DW, Stålsby Lundborg C, Nitsch D, Liu X, Su G. [Effectiveness and safety of pneumococcal vaccines used alone or combined with influenza vaccination in dialysis patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#). *Vaccine*. 2020 Nov 3;38(47):7422-7432. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2020.09.080. Epub 2020 Oct 12. PMID: 33059969.
- [Weekly Philadelphia Updates](#)

COVID-19 Talking Points

- The main purpose of the COVID vaccines is to prevent severe illness leading to hospitalization. Complete immunity would be a bonus. Scientists are not even sure how to measure immunity at this point in time. Further research is needed.
- Approximately 400 Americans are dying each day from COVID-19. We cannot accept this reality. During August 2022 alone, we lost 15,284 Americans to COVID-19.
- It is currently the third leading cause of death.
- Age continues to be the strongest predictor of death. Specifically, unvaccinated people who are 65 years or older have, by far, the highest rates of death.
- Unvaccinated adults are more likely to be hospitalized compared with vaccinated adults.
- Hospitalization rates are lowest in those who had received a booster dose.
- Hospitalized vaccinated persons were older and more likely to have three or more underlying medical condition and be long-term care facility residents compared with hospitalized unvaccinated persons.
- COVID-19 continues to circulate and remains high in Philadelphia.
- The Bivalent booster vaccine strengthens immunity against all of the known variants, including the original virus, Delta and both Omicron variants.

Rates of COVID-19 Deaths by Vaccination Status and Age Group

April 04, 2021–July 02, 2022 (30 U.S. jurisdictions)



References and Resources

- Havers FP, Pham H, Taylor CA, et al. [COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations Among Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Adults 18 Years or Older in 13 US States](#), January 2021 to April 2022. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2022;182(10):1071–1081. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2022.4299 (see graphs on page E9)
- [Your Local Epidemiologist: 400 Americans are Dying Each Day](#)