

# Quick tips for health workers

## Reaching kids who've missed vaccines

**THE BIG  
CATCH-UP!**

**At all ages, #VaccinesSaveLives.**

Vaccines protect us and those around us.

Help people in your community to receive their recommended vaccines.

**2023 is the year of the Big Catch-up. Let's reach out!**

Vaccines give kids a healthy start in life.

Are the kids in your community up-to-date on vaccinations? Some might have missed essential vaccines during the pandemic or for other reasons, so now is the time to help kids catch up!

**Help build sustained community support for vaccination.**

As someone who is trusted in the community, health workers can use outreach activities as an opportunity to rally for stronger and sustained community support for vaccination.

### Planning for intensified vaccination sessions?

Here are tips to help increase vaccination uptake

- **Plan with the community.**

Together with community representatives, identify ways and resources to reach everyone with information and services, especially those in hard-to-reach areas or among populations with low coverage.

- **Keep communities informed.**

Organize community discussions or information sessions on the benefits of vaccines and how to access them.

- **Empower vaccination allies.**

Ask for support from local leaders and influential community representatives. Equip them with the tools they need (e.g., talking points, supporting materials) to reach out to the community.

- **Be prepared for those who are unsure.**

Identify some colleagues and partners to engage with people who have concerns or who may be undecided. Open avenues for community conversations to address rumors and misinformation. See useful tips on the next page!

### What should I do after a vaccination session?

- **Thank the community.**

Affirm their decision to vaccinate and recognize the importance of community action in ensuring that no unvaccinated child is left behind.

- **Update vaccination advocates** on the improvements to coverage and rally their continuing support for essential immunization.

- **Remind local officials**

of their important role in ensuring that the community remains up-to-date with their vaccines.



# Frequently-Asked Questions

## Why is it important to reach kids who've missed their vaccines?

Vaccines protect against more than 20 diseases – like measles, diphtheria, HPV and polio – that can affect anyone, regardless of age, so rapidly reaching the millions who have missed out is a high priority. Every child should have access to essential vaccinations.

## Can vaccines cause harmful side effects?

Vaccines are very safe. Most side effects from vaccines are minor and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever. Serious adverse events or death are VERY rare (e.g., 1 per million doses) for most vaccines.

## How do we know vaccines are safe?

Every vaccine needs to go through extensive and rigorous testing before it can be introduced in a country. Once they are in use, they must be continuously monitored to make sure they are safe for the people who receive them.

## Do vaccines provide better immunity than natural infection?

Vaccines stimulate the immune system to develop protection similar to that produced by the natural infection, but do not cause the disease or put the immunized person at risk of its potential complications. Natural infection comes with the risk of serious complications related to that infection.

For more FAQs, [follow this link](https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/vaccines-and-immunization-what-is-vaccination)

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## What if people are unsure about vaccination?

### Helpful conversation techniques

#### 1. Listen with empathy

Acknowledge how they're feeling (without necessarily agreeing, for example, "**It's okay to have questions or want more information before getting a vaccine**"). Don't dismiss them.



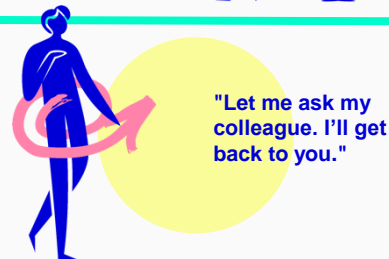
#### 2. Ask open-ended questions

Some examples are, "**What have you heard about vaccines?**" or "**Why do you feel that way?**". These questions elicit a response other than "yes" or "no" and can help you better understand their concerns and might also assist the other person in working through their thoughts.



#### 3. Share trusted information

When you don't know the answer or if you're unsure about how to address their concern, offer to help look for information. **Asking for their permission** might make them more willing to listen to you rather than feeling like you're pushing unwanted information on them.



#### 4. Explore reasons for wanting to get vaccinated

When discussing vaccination, nothing works as well as getting personal. If applicable, **share your own reasons for wanting to have your child vaccinated**. If you previously had concerns that you worked through, and ended up having your child vaccinated, explain what helped reassure you.



#### 5. Provide information to get a vaccine locally

Follow through with practical advice on when and where to get vaccinated.

