#### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND E X T E N S I O N

## HOW TO TALK TO PATIENTS ABOUT THE

# COVID-19 VACCINE.

#### Be compassionate.

Be curious about why the patient feels the way they do. Be sensitive to culture, and remember that arguing does not work!

### Ask permission to discuss the vaccine.

If the patient says no, either acknowledge the patient's feelings and offer to discuss vaccines at a later time, or explore why.

#### Motivational interviewing.

Ask the patient a scaled question such as "On a scale of 1 to 10, how likely are you to get a COVID-19 vaccine?". Help the patient move towards higher numbers as they discuss their beliefs outloud.

#### Respond to questions.

Respond within the boundaries of your scope of practice or refer patients to trusted resources such as the CDC.

#### Urge a strong recommendation.

Strongly recommend the vaccine to patients. "If it is okay with you, I would like to spend a few minutes talking about COVID-19 vaccines and your family."

SOURCE: CDC, HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/VACCINES/COVID -19/HCP/ENGAGING-PATIENTS.HTML

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