

#DONTWAITVACCINATE CAMPAIGN TALKING POINTS

FOR DRAFTING SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES, PRESS RELEASES, ARTICLES AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

Don't wait—vaccinate.

- Getting immunized is important now and as shelter-in-place orders are lifted to prevent spread of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Even while California is responding to COVID-19, it's essential that parents make sure their children continue to be protected from serious vaccine-preventable diseases.
- While staying at home during the COVID-19 outbreak has helped to slow the spread of the virus, it also has resulted in delays and decreases in the number of children and adults getting their recommended vaccines.
- California and US data from 2020 show troubling decreases in administration of childhood and adult vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating that communities may be vulnerable to serious disease.
- Each wave of COVID-19 and associated restrictions might add to the number of children and adults with delayed immunizations.
- Postponing routine vaccinations puts you, families and communities at risk for infection with preventable deadly diseases.
- When social distancing begins to ease up, infants and children who are not protected by vaccines could be vulnerable to diseases like measles and whooping cough.
- Similarly, adults who aren't vaccinated now may be more vulnerable to diseases like shingles and pneumonia.

It's safe to come in.

- We understand you may feel a little uneasy about coming into the doctor's office these days. Hospitals, clinics and other healthcare settings across the state have taken extra care to ensure patients are safe when visiting.
- Additional safety measures may include separating times for sick and healthy patients, masking requirements, additional disinfecting between appointments, physical distancing in waiting rooms and many other precautionary measures to make sure patients stay safe. Some clinics offer drive-through clinics, where you can get care without leaving your car.
- Parents should talk to their children's doctor and work together to make sure their children are up-to-date on all their vaccines.

Call your doctor.

- Make a vaccine appointment today to keep you and your family protected during and after the pandemic.
- As California 'reopens,' there may be many children who need to catch up on immunizations, increasing wait times for appointments.
- While waiting to get vaccinated, children could be exposed to dangerous vaccine-preventable diseases circulating in the community.
- For those who are out of work or without health insurance, it's important to know you can still get your child vaccinated. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program offers free vaccines to families who cannot afford to pay for their children's vaccines (through 19 years of age). Similarly, the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program offers free vaccines for eligible adults. Talk to your healthcare provider to find out if they are a VFC or VFA provider.