**Question:**

What about long-term effects that haven't been studied yet?

**Response:**

The great news is that there is after-market monitoring of vaccines through a program called VAERS. If there seems to be a long-term complication down the line, we will know about it. You can read more about VAERS here - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/vaers/index.html>

**Question:**

One of the questions I keep hearing about is the COVID vaccine. Parents are asking about if it’s safe? Are there reactions they should be concerned with? I also have a patient who is allergic to shell-fish and bees and they are asking if it is safe for them.

**Response:**

We don't know yet about the safety of the new COVID-19 vaccines in children. Right now, there are clinical trials involving children going on, and we can have more data about who should or shouldn't get the vaccine and which vaccine will be safest for them as soon as they are done. They can ask their child's provider as soon as they are offered to children.

**Question:**

When vaccines are tested, are there requirements for how many participants are from different genders, age groups, racial & ethnic groups, etc.?

**Response:**

TAPI has a few webpages dedicated to information about COVID-19. Click “Learn about the vaccine" for more resources national and state-wide - <https://whyimmunize.org/covid-19/>

**Response: 2**

There are not certain requirements (such as mandatory percentages) but the companies did go out of their way to recruit a diverse pool of participants to get the best data possible. Moderna even hit pause to try to find a more diverse group of trial participants. You can read about the racial and ethnic break-down from different trials in the data they publish about their trials. I am linking to the originals here - (<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2035389>)

(<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2034577>)

**Question:**

I heard the youngest age is 16yrs old to receive the COVID vaccine.

**Response:**

The Pfizer vaccine is recommended for people aged 16 and up. The Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines are recommended for age 18 and up. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html>)

**Question:**

Our rural hospital has a 23% vaccination rate among employees. What can we do to increase that percentage?

**Response:**

Don't we all wish there was an easy solution to vaccine hesitancy! A big thing you can do is be proud of getting the vaccine and share with others that you got it and feel that it is safe. It is also great to empathetically listen to the concerns of those who are hesitant and share resources to reassure them. We have some great resources here in this training and on the TAPI website - <https://whyimmunize.org/covid-19/>

**Question:**

But what is the purpose of mercury in the vaccine?

**Response:**

When vaccines are in a multidose vial, more than one needle is poked through the lid to draw up vaccine. This can introduce bacteria into the vial that could make someone sick if it were injected. A small amount of thimerosal keeps bacteria from growing in there. This is only present in a multidose flu vaccine and not on routine childhood vaccines in a single vial.

**Question:**

Sometimes our patients come in and try to get their child caught up on all their vaccines which is great, but how many do you recommend to get in one visit? We did 5 in one visit, and that was pretty tough for the little guy. Just curious your thoughts.

**Response:**

Vaccines have to be given at certain intervals between doses. It is best to let the doctor give the vaccines on the CDC recommended catch up schedule. These help the kiddos get caught back up as fast as possible and aren't dangerous. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/catchup.html>