



# Applying the PrOTCT Framework<sup>1</sup> for COVID-19 Vaccine Discussions

Public health nurses have an important role in supporting parents and caregivers as they make personal decisions to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This resource provides guidance on how to apply the PrOTCT framework to have positive discussions about vaccines where individuals feel safe and respected because trust is built as the nurse shares important information.

## Pr

**PRESUME** they will get the vaccine and proactively start the conversation with a positive statement about the vaccine.

*"I am here to support you as you make the decision to get the vaccine. As a nurse, I have already gotten the COVID-19 vaccine and I'm happy to help you get it too, so you can protect yourself and (... your child, partner, family members, work colleagues...)"*

The evidence and information about the COVID-19 vaccines is rapidly evolving and changing. It is important for nurses to be able to provide individuals with the most current information or be able to refer them to the health unit website or teams with specific vaccine expertise.

## O

**OFFER** to share your knowledge about the current vaccine evidence and your experience having had the vaccine.

*"I have been thinking a lot about this vaccine for myself, (my own family) and the families I work with. I have spent time educating myself on the science around it. Can I share some of what I know with you and also tell you what it was like to get the vaccine?"*

To create emotional safety provide the individual with clear information on "what to expect" or "what happens next" during the vaccination process.

## T

**TAILOR** the recommendation to get the vaccine to their specific concern or situation.

*"Here is why you are the right person to get the vaccine..."*

*"...as a mother it is important to prioritize your own health first, so that you will stay healthy and have the energy to care for your children."*

*"...you work in a warehouse with many people making sure that essential goods are distributed. Because of this you are at higher risk to come into contact with the virus that causes COVID-19, so it is important to maintain your health to keep working, which you have shared is an important support for your new family."*

## C

**Address specific CONCERNS** (should not be the bulk of the conversation).

*"Are there any particular concerns about this vaccine you want me to address?"*

Take an explicitly anti-racist/anti-oppressive stance, recognizing that some communities have justified fears about vaccination

Be prepared to answer questions with the most current evidence about COVID-19 vaccination for individuals who are considering pregnancy, are pregnant, or who are breastfeeding.

## T

**TALK** through a specific, tailored plan for where and how to register for or book a vaccination appointment.

*"At this time in our community, here is when you can get your vaccination appointment..."*

*"To register for or to book an appointment, here is the (website/telephone) information..."*

*"Are there any barriers to you booking or getting to the appointment that I might be able to assist you with?"*

Recognize that a person's choice to not receive the vaccine may actually be a 'not yet' choice – maintaining respect, autonomy, and dignity for a person and their choice may keep the door open to a later change of mind.



**Practice Tip:** When asked questions about the vaccine: Prioritize listening and identifying specific concern(s). Use the PrOTCT talking tips to structure the conversation instead of just providing health teaching and responding with a lot of health and safety information. It is important to listen, validate their experiences, and identify their priority concerns.



What do you think of the COVID-19 vaccine?

I'm worried, do you think the vaccine is safe?

What's in the vaccine?

Can I get the vaccine even if I'm breastfeeding?

Will the vaccine make me sick?

"I am here to support you as you make the decision to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Can I share some of what I know about the vaccines with you and also tell you about my experience?"

Here is why you are the right person to get the vaccine...

Are there any particular concerns about the vaccine you would like me to address?



<sup>1</sup> Adapted with permission from the Centre for Effective Practice. (December 2020). Constantinescu, C., Ivers, N., Grindrod, K. PrOTCT Framework: Ontario. Toronto: Centre for Effective Practice. [https://tools.cep.health/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CEP\\_COVID-Framework\\_r5-Final.pdf](https://tools.cep.health/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CEP_COVID-Framework_r5-Final.pdf)

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