

COVID-19 vaccines for children: supporting parent decision-making

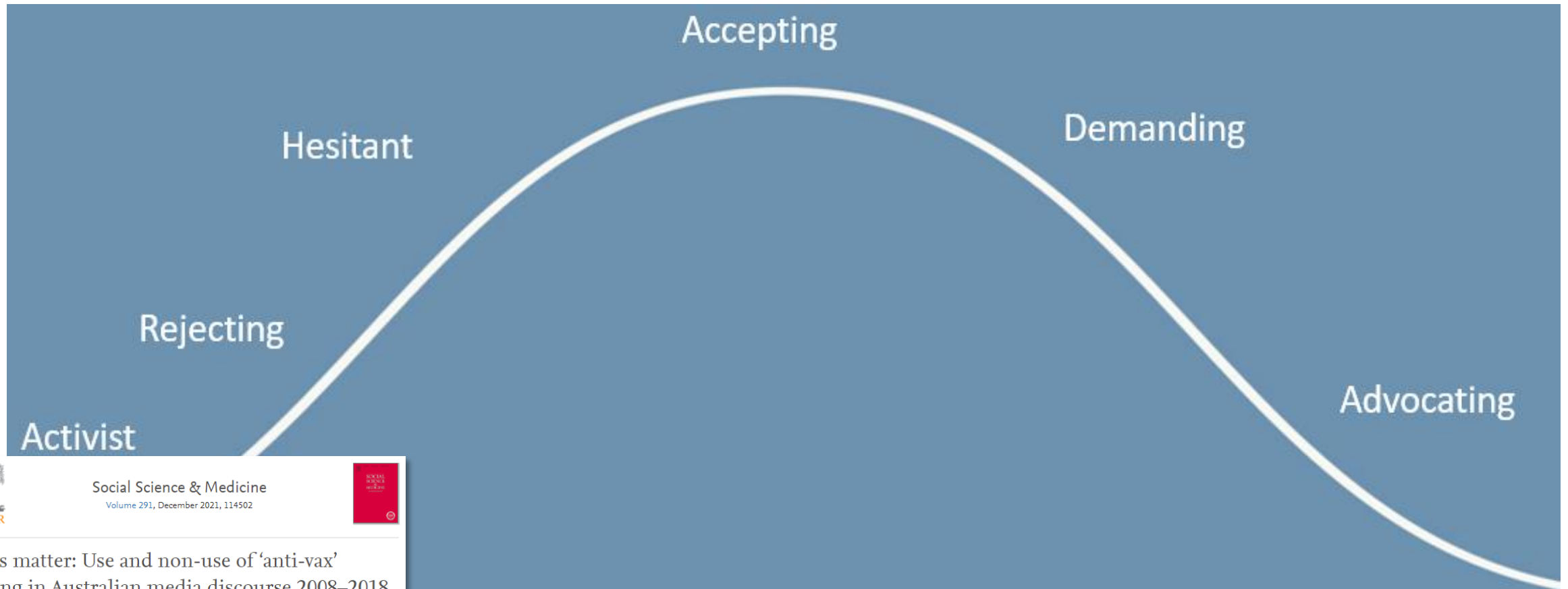
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Range of vaccination positions

- May be different for adult and child COVID-19 vaccines



Talking about vaccination

- Find out all their questions and concerns
 - Resist the righting reflex
- Acknowledge concerns and share knowledge
 - Share facts on vaccine safety and effectiveness
 - Avoid over-reassurance
 - Reinforce motivation
- Discuss disease severity
 - Centre discussion on disease, not vaccines
- Recommend vaccination
 - And explain where to go
- Continue the conversation
 - Keep communication open



Decision aids

- Designed according to international standards
- Provide detailed information about options
- Do not advise one option over another
- Use visuals to compare risks
- Help people clarify and communicate what matters to them

The screenshot displays the 'Decision aid: Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'For health professionals', 'For the public', 'Our work', 'News & events', and 'About us'. Below this is a large image of a woman sitting on a couch using a laptop. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Decision aid: Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?** - The main title.
- What are the options?** - A section with three radio button options: 'Get the COVID-19 vaccine now' (selected), 'Wait to get the COVID-19 vaccine', and 'Don't get the COVID-19 vaccine at all'. A 'START' button is located below the options.
- Which vaccine you would like to know more about?** - A section with three radio button options: 'Pfizer/BioNTech (Comirnaty)' (selected), 'AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)', and 'Moderna (Spikevax)'. Below this is detailed information about the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, including its composition, effectiveness, and delivery method.
- Check your personal risk profile** - A section with a progress indicator showing 'STEP 4: Consider what matters most to you' is active. It contains a checklist of health risks and conditions that may affect the decision to get vaccinated.

The risk comparison chart shows the following data:

HEALTH RISKS	Percentage of people
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SYMPTOMS	90%
DURATION OF SYMPTOMS	2-3 weeks
SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS	0%
HOSPITALISATION	11.5%

<https://ncirs.org.au/covid-19-decision-aid>

Option grids

MCRI/Vic DH resource coming soon

- Brief (1 page)
- Use frequently asked questions to present evidence
- Can be used in or just before discussions
- Link out for detailed data

FAQs	My child gets the COVID-19 vaccine now	My child waits or doesn't get the COVID-19 vaccine
How many vaccine doses are there?	Two vaccine injections...	None
How will this affect what my child can do and where they can go?	Your child is less likely to get COVID-19 than a child who is not vaccinated. This means ...	Your child is more likely to get COVID-19 than a child who is vaccinated. This means ...
What are the benefits?	Your child will reduce their risk of COVID-19 infection or of having more severe disease ...	Your child will not have any side effects that may happen after a COVID-19 vaccine.
What are the risks?	Your child may experience common and mild side effects ...	Your child may get COVID-19. They might have no or mild symptoms like: sore throat, runny nose, feeling tired ...
What about myocarditis (inflammation of the heart)?	Very rarely, your child might develop myocarditis after their COVID-19 vaccine ...	Rarely, your child might develop myocarditis after getting COVID-19...
What are the long-term effects?	No long-term safety concerns have been identified in Australia ...	Rarely, your child might have symptoms that last more than 1 or 2 months after COVID-19 infection, known as long COVID...
Will my child have to miss school?	Your child does not have to miss school to get the vaccine if they go outside of school hours...	Your child will need to spend at least 7 days at home if they get COVID-19 ...
What if my child has a disability?	Children with a disability are no more likely to have vaccine side effects than other children...	Children with a disability may be at increased risk of serious illness if they get COVID-19.

Values clarification

MCRI/Vic DH resource coming soon



- Interactive
- List or rate pros and cons of options
- Think through direct and indirect outcomes of choice

Reasons to vaccinate your child now	Importance		
	High	Med	Low
Better protected from COVID-19 symptoms			
Reduced risk of severe illness			
Reduced risk of PIMS-TS/MIS-C			
My child has high risk of exposure to COVID-19			
My child is at increased risk of severe disease			
My child spends time with someone who is at high risk of severe disease			
I may feel guilty if they get COVID-19			
I will have peace of mind			
I would feel judged if I did not			

Reasons to wait or not vaccinate your child	Importance		
	High	Med	Low
My child might have vaccine side effects			
COVID-19 infection is generally mild in children			
My child is afraid of needles			
My child has had previous vaccine anaphylactic reaction			
Masks and distancing are enough to reduce risk			
I want more information about serious side effects			
I may feel guilty if they have a vaccine side effect			
My child is rarely exposed to COVID-19			
I would feel judged if I vaccinated them			

Talking to kids

- Answer your own questions first
- Find out their questions and concerns
- Answer honestly and try to address any misinformation
- Tell them about your own experience
- Let them know they're protecting themselves and helping others
- Set clear expectations
- Reward and praise them



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Talking about vaccination with kids

Talking to kids about vaccination is important to prepare them for their immunisation appointment and to answer their questions. Talking about what will happen at the appointment gives the child a sense of control and helps to reduce their anxiety. Here are some tips to talk to your child.

Answer your own questions about the vaccines

- Get to know the key facts about the COVID vaccines so you can answer your child's questions. Access up-to-date and trustworthy sources of information (see links to resources below).

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers>

Thank you

