OVERCOME VACCINE BARRIERS

Here's a list you can use to inform your patients about the resources available to them.

INSURANCE

Those who are uninsured might believe they are unable to get vaccinated. However, the vaccine is 100 percent free for every individual living in the United States.

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

To make an appointment visit vaccines.gov, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233.

INTERNET

The internet has been the go to resource for those signing up for vaccine appointments, but many people around the country don't have access to the internet.

In order to help those without internet access, many states and local municipalities have their own vaccine number individuals can call for information about the COVID-19 vaccine and to schedule an appointment.

The CDC also has its own vaccine information line. To find a vaccine provider, individuals can call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY: 888-720-7489) for assistance in English, Spanish, and many other languages. For general information about the vaccine, individuals can call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

TRANSPORTATION

A number of cities around the country have created programs to transport people to vaccination appointments.

The United Way Worldwide created the Ride United Vaccine Access Campaign, to provide free or discounted rides to COVID-19 vaccination sites in select cities, in partnership with ridesharing service Lyft.

Additionally, more than 500 transit systems around the country are providing free transportation to vaccination sites or using their transit stations and facilities as vaccination sites. For a list of participating transit systems check out the VaxTransit campaign.

TIME OFF

Many Americans do not have the ability to take time off work to get vaccinated.

For this reason, the federal government has created a tax credit for small- and medium-sized businesses to fully offset the cost of paid leave for employees to get vaccinated and recover from any after-effects of vaccination. The tax credit covers the cost for up to 80 hours (i.e. 10 work days) of time off. Individuals can receive up to $511 per day of paid sick leave offered between April 1 and September 30, 2021.

Additionally, a number of organizations are offering free childcare to help people get vaccinated. Bright Horizons is offering free childcare for 10 million workers at participating organizations to get vaccinated and recuperate. KinderCare, the Learning Care Group, and the YMCA are also offering free childcare to help parents and caregivers.