

Vaccine Education Initiative FAQ

What is the Vaccine Education Initiative (VEI)?

The VEI is a public health model to increase vaccine confidence, education and access for the Autism community. This program is funded through grants from the AUCD and AAP and is offered free of charge.

How does the VEI help Autistic Individuals?

The VEI helps Autistic individuals by providing:

- Plain language and accessible educational information,
- Communication boards, visual schedules, and social stories
- Free Vaccine Accessibility Kits
- Reducing negative healthcare experiences through provider training.

How does the VEI help providers and students?

The VEI helps providers and Students through:

- Free training on Improving the Vaccination Experience: Accessible Vaccination for Neurodiverse People at Any Age
- Free Healthcare Vaccine Accessibility Kits
- Individualized accessibility support for vaccine distribution events

What topics are covered in the provider training?

- Effective strategies to reduce pain & anxiety during a vaccination visit.
- Strategies to reduce stress when vaccinating Neurodiverse patients.
- Ways to create inclusive vaccination environments
- Tips on communicating with Autism/DD community
- Reducing barriers to vaccine uptake in the Autistic population
- Supports such as visual schedules, communication boards, and social stories during vaccination appointments

What does the Vaccine Distribution Accessibility support program provide?

- Training on improving accessibility during vaccine appointments
- Distribution of Healthcare Provider & Patient vaccine accessibility kits
- Providing communication boards, social stories, and visual schedules.
- Consultation on sensory considerations for specific venues.
- Support for needle-hesitant patients of any age and ability level including pain reducing items like shot-blockers and Buzzy Bees.
- ASGNO staff member the day of the event to serve as a dedicated liaison for individuals and families who need accommodations and support.

How can I learn more or get involved with this program?

Contact Claire Tibbetts, Executive Director at info@asgno.org or call 504-603-6548 and leave a voicemail.

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