

Review of: "[Viewpoint] World Immunization Week: Immunization of Healthcare Workers – A reminder"

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Ashish Trivedi has written a viewpoint reminder for the immunization of healthcare workers. Until the COVID-19 pandemic, the conventional wisdom was likely that most healthcare workers accepted and used immunization to protect themselves and patients. The rapid development of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic changed that conversation, and many healthcare workers refused to accept vaccination. The reasons ranged from uncertainty about efficacy and adverse effects to mistrust of the government and other agencies promoting vaccination. How should the healthcare organizations respond to this situation?

There are no perfect answers which will satisfy hesitant healthcare workers. First, the public and healthcare workers need to understand the risk associated with the particular infection in question. How frequently do these infections occur, what are the circumstances associated with infections, and what are the outcomes associated with these infections? Second, what are the potential benefits of vaccination? How effective is the vaccine? Ideally, it should provide protection for the healthcare worker, the healthcare workers' families, the patients managed by the healthcare workers, and other coworkers. Third, what are adverse effects of the vaccine in question? There needs to be a clear understanding of the frequency and severity of adverse effects.

Hopefully, providing this information will increase the acceptance rate of vaccination by healthcare workers. In addition, it should provide useful information to healthcare workers who adamantly refuse vaccination so that they might inform patients about vaccination when asked.