

Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin's Guide to Accessible Vaccine Clinics

Sensory Considerations

Turn lights low, reduce fluorescent lighting when possible.



Variety of seating options when available (chairs, cushions, bean bags, etc.)

Make a variety of sensory fidgets available at check in to use throughout the appointment (ideas below).



Noise canceling headphones available at check in

Reduce crowding to eliminate social and visual overwhelm.

Offer weighted lap pads

Play calming video/music with low volume on available TVs/screens in shared spaces.



Patience and a smile will go the extra mile.

Click Bullet Points for Resources!

Music/Video

- Soothing Jellyfish Aquarium
- Relaxing Music with Nature Sounds
- Coral Reef Aquarium

Sensory

- Sensory Fidget Tubes
- Squishy Stress Balls
- Infinity Cube Fidget
- Sensory Stress Ball and Water Beads
- Bubble Popper

Weighted Lap Pad

- Friendly Cuddle Weighted Lap Pad for Kids - Sensory

“My son was very comfortable getting his booster. The quiet rooms and friendly staff were a huge help. We were all very excited that he handled it so well.” – VEI clinic participant

Appointment Preparation



Develop Social Narrative to help individuals and families prepare for the appointment.



Send paperwork ahead of time to reduce time spent waiting at check in.



Send a reminder email to participants with tips, resources and paperwork.



Prepare and send a visual schedule ahead of time.

Participants can use this at the appointment to walk through the steps of the appointment.



Prepare a feedback survey to be taken during observation or sent out via email after the event.



Ask individualized questions during registration/sign up:

- How have past vaccine experiences gone?
- To help us prepare for a positive experience, please list any accommodations you may find helpful at this event.
- Or please provide any additional information about how we can provide a successful vaccination experience.

Space Considerations

- **Waiting room with sensory fidgets**, activities, visual schedules.
- **Private rooms** for vaccine administration.
- Plan for an **extra vaccination room** in case someone needs more time.
- When possible, have **separate observation and waiting rooms**.
- **Two separate observation spaces** when possible - one with activities for children and one for older teens and adults.
- **Allow movement**, exploration, and play.
- **Clear signs** showing where to go.
- **Break space** for volunteers, nurses, and others to reduce crowds, and noise in other spaces. Consider providing water, coffee, snacks, etc.

Injection Tools

Buzzy Bee: “Through a combination of vibration and ice pain-blocking methods, this FDA 510(k) cleared topical product is the most proven way to control pain associated with venipuncture and cosmetic injections. Our solutions use high-frequency, low amplitude vibration, which provides a more subtle sensation than percussive or other e-stimulation vibration, therapies. Users should familiarize themselves with the vibration strength before the first application.”

Shotblockers: “The contact points on the underside saturate the sensory nerves, distracting the patient from the pain signals caused by the needle poke.”

How did this clinic promote vaccine access for your family?

“The different tools used to distract my son and make him as comfortable and relaxed as possible. Also that nobody held him down.”

Other Supports & Accommodations

Orientation **email/training for nurses and other volunteers**

Commitment to flexibility, patience, and a **calm environment**

Provide water & snacks



Band-aid choice board

Support Animals

Music therapy



Family Support Volunteer

a volunteer trained or experienced in working with Autism to help support participants all the way through the process. This person should be prepared with comments from the registration process and able to provide individualized support based on the needs of the participant.

“Everything was great and although my son wasn't happy about getting the vaccine, this was by far the smoothest vaccination he has ever received. He only wants to get vaccines here now!”

Other Resources

Prepping a Child for a COVID-19 Vaccine

Fear of Needles and the COVID-19 Vaccine: A Guide for Caregivers

To find an adaptive vaccine clinic near you, an educational program, or to learn more about the VEI please visit: **COVID-19 Support | Autism Society**

To speak to an I&R Specialist directly, call 414-988-1260, or email info@asew.org
Visit www.asew.org/VEI to learn more.