



COVID-19: Stay up to Date on Vaccine Development and Preparation

The AAFP Is Here to Support You as You Serve Your Patients and Community

October 8, 2020

Dear colleagues,

COVID-19 is still plaguing communities across the U.S., with over 7.5 million confirmed cases, and this terrible virus has sadly claimed the lives of over 200,000 people in our country. The AAFP remains committed to advocating on your behalf and helping you navigate this situation as you care for your patients, community and practice.

Since the beginning of this health crisis, one thing we have all been waiting and hoping for is a vaccine. While we don't have a COVID-19 vaccine available yet, we want to make sure you are getting accurate information throughout the process. The AAFP's new COVID-19 vaccine webpage, [aafp.org/covidvaccine](https://www.aafp.org/covidvaccine), offers you the latest information about the vaccine, the status of various trials, and the AAFP's efforts to shape vaccine recommendations and advocate for family physicians. As we get closer to the approval and release of a vaccine, this page will be updated to help you and your practice prepare.

We know you have many questions about the potential COVID-19 vaccines. Last night's virtual Town Hall featured two experts who discussed the current state of COVID-19 vaccine science, the process of vaccine development, including safety and approval, and what to consider in planning and preparing for potential vaccine distribution. It was an insightful session, so if you missed it, [check out the replay](#). As a reminder, you can earn one [live](#) or [enduring](#) CME credit for this virtual event. Be sure to evaluate the session and claim your credit.

This week, the Department of Health & Human Services opened the application for Phase 3 provider relief funding. Even physicians who previously received relief funding may now be eligible to apply for an additional payment based on operating revenue changes caused by COVID-19. Applications opened October 5 and close on November 6. Visit the [AAFP's Provider Relief Fund page](#) to find out if you are eligible and get information about how to apply.

As we head into winter and the flu season, many of us are expecting the COVID-19 situation to worsen. I want to remind you about some resources that you may find helpful to share with your practice teams and talk about with your patients:

- The [AAFP's COVID-19 microsite](#) contains resources on topics ranging from practice management to clinical guidance to financial relief.
- Telehealth has become a powerful tool to help you provide care during the COVID-19 pandemic. The [AAFP's telehealth toolkit](#) is a resource you can use to build and grow a sustainable telehealth program in your practice.
- We all know it is more important than ever for people to get the flu shot this year. In addition, some people have fallen behind on their immunizations during the pandemic.

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The [AAFP's immunizations and vaccines page](#) contains information you can use to help your patients catch up.

- With flu season upon us, people may have questions about whether they have the flu or COVID-19. The AAFP has developed an [FAQ document](#) to help guide conversations with your patients about the difference between COVID-19 and the flu.

This email marks my final COVID-19 update as your AAFP president. Next week, I will pass the baton to your incoming president, Ada Stewart, MD, FAAFP. It has been my distinct honor to be your president this year, and I look forward to serving as board chair for the next year.

Before I sign off, I want to let you know that if you haven't registered to attend next week's virtual Family Medicine Experience, it's not too late. This impactful virtual conference offers five days of unrivaled CME, thought-provoking Main Stage presentations, patient care solutions, networking and more. Visit [aafp.org/fmx](#) to learn more and sign up.

Thank you for your continued passion for serving your patients and community!

Gary L. LeRoy, MD
President
American Academy of Family Physicians