



COVID-19: Treatment and Vaccine Developments and Navigating the Holidays The AAFP Is Here to Support You as You Serve Your Patients and Community

November 19, 2020

Dear colleagues,

For those of you I haven't met, my name is Ada Stewart, and I am your new AAFP president. I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve all of you and represent the best specialty ever!

Unfortunately, we are seeing COVID-19 surges around the country, and, in response, many areas have reinstated restrictions and/or are putting additional restrictions in place. While the past week has brought some good news regarding the development of vaccines, we know it will take time for final approvals and broad administration to the public. Thus, it's important for us to encourage our patients to remain vigilant about mask wearing, social distancing and handwashing.

The AAFP has resources available on our [COVID-19 microsite](#) to help you stay updated on a wide range of COVID-19 information. I want to highlight a few recent additions:

- **Monoclonal antibody treatment:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a new monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19. This treatment is for use in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at risk for severe illness. It is *not* for use in patients who are hospitalized or receiving oxygen therapy. Preliminary data suggest the antibody may shorten the course of infection in patients if given early after symptom onset. More details are available on the [COVID-19 clinical resources webpage](#)
- **COVID-19 vaccine updates:** This week, we have received promising news about two vaccine candidates that have demonstrated efficacy rates over 90% during clinical trials. While no vaccines have been approved by the FDA or have received an EUA, we are closely monitoring the progress of these and other vaccine candidates. We continue to update the AAFP COVID-19 vaccine webpage, aafp.org/covidvaccine, with the latest information about the vaccine candidates, vaccine distribution plans, and the AAFP's efforts to shape vaccine recommendations and advocate for family physicians, so be sure to visit the page regularly. One new item of note is a list of state-by-state distribution plans that was added to the [vaccine distribution section of the webpage](#), and we will keep this updated as new information becomes available.
- **Holiday gatherings:** With the holiday season upon us, I know many of us are getting questions from patients about gathering with family and friends. While it is a difficult message to deliver, we know that there are significant risks related to the spread of COVID-19 if people gather together with those who aren't members of their household. Family physicians are a trusted source of information for their patients and community,

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so if you would like to share information with your patients about the risks associated with holiday (or any other) get-togethers, we have drafted an [email template](#) that you are welcome to use (Note: The template downloads automatically. Depending on your browser settings, you may need to look at the bottom of your screen to open the document and save it to your computer).

If you missed last week's Virtual Town Hall featuring two of our colleagues sharing how they are helping their communities as we face another surge of COVID-19, 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. Speaking of the Virtual Town Hall, our next one will be held on December 2 at 7 p.m. CT. Our guest will be David Tully, the AAFP's director of government relations, and he will provide some post-election analysis and discuss the impact on family medicine. Keep an eye on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more details.

With flu season well underway, we all need to stress the importance of getting the flu vaccine (and all other appropriate vaccines), so I want to remind you of the vaccine resources available [for you](#) and [for your patients](#).

Thank you for your continued passion for serving your patients and community. I wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Thanksgiving!

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President
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