



COVID-19: New Vaccine and Treatment Resources; Updates From a New Administration The AAFP Is Here to Support You as You Serve Your Patients and Community

January 28, 2021

Dear colleagues,

We have reached a point in the pandemic at which our country is simultaneously treating patients who are ill from COVID-19 and scrambling to coordinate vaccine efforts to hopefully get us to the other side of this horrible virus. The AAFP remains committed to providing you tools and resources to navigate both of these areas.

We continue to monitor vaccine distribution efforts, and the latest information can be found on the distribution plans section of our [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage. We also know that distribution remains inconsistent and challenging across the country. The AAFP continues to make sure federal and state officials are aware of these issues and the role family physicians should play in the process. Thank you to those of you who have amplified these efforts using the [Speak Out](#) to contact your governor about your state's vaccination response. If you haven't contacted your governor yet, I encourage you to do so to help our collective voices be heard.

As always, you can find the latest information on our regularly updated [COVID-19](#) and [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpages. Here are some new resources and recent advocacy efforts I'd like to highlight:

COVID-19 vaccines and treatment

- [Replay of January 26 COVID-19 vaccine webinar: Clinical Updates and Considerations for Practice and Patients](#)
- [Practice staff COVID-19 education presentation](#)
- [Patient education addressing COVID-19 vaccine myths](#)
- [Outpatient COVID-19 treatment presentation from Gary LeRoy, MD](#)
- [Consumer immunization campaign](#)

Advocacy

We are one week into the new Biden administration, and several executive actions have been taken to confront the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Of note, President Biden signed a number of orders to prioritize the federal government's COVID-19 response, which have included issuing a mask mandate, creating a taskforce within the White House to continue to focus on the pandemic response, rejoining the World Health Organization (WHO), addressing supply chain challenges through use of the Defense Production Act, prioritizing testing/workforce, and improving data collection.

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We expect that the administration will take additional executive actions later this week on health care and immigration. President Biden signed some health care orders this afternoon to strengthen Medicaid programs and to open an enrollment period for individuals looking to obtain coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Visit the [White House's website](#) for details on the various executive actions that have been signed and check the [advocacy section of aafp.org](#) for recaps of executive orders that are important for family medicine.

Before I close, I want to highlight the importance of reminding our patients and communities that now is not the time to let down our guard in the fight against COVID-19. [Preventive measures](#) such as social distancing, [mask wearing](#) and [handwashing](#) are still important precautions we need everyone to take.

We recently crossed the one-year mark since the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the U.S. In that year, you have demonstrated the positive difference family physicians make in their communities. I am proud to call all of you colleagues!

Thank you for all that you do!

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