



COVID-19: New Vaccine Details to Educate Your Patients The AAFP Is Here to Support You as You Serve Your Patients and Community

March 4, 2021

Dear colleagues,

As we approach the one-year mark of COVID-19 being declared a global pandemic, there are new signs of hope and reasons for optimism. A new COVID-19 vaccine just received emergency use authorization (EUA), and the vaccine supply is increasing significantly each week. As a family physician, you are a trusted source of information for your patients regarding the COVID-19 vaccines. The AAFP wants to ensure you have the key details you need. Our [COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#) contains the latest information about the vaccines and distribution plans, and I want to draw your attention to a couple of resources:

- The two-part webinar series [“COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinical Updates and Considerations for Practice and Patients”](#) is available on demand. Part 1 primarily focuses on the Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines, and part 2 discusses the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine, as well as other vaccines in the pipeline.
- [Patient education resources on the COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#) have been updated to include information about the newest vaccine.

We know that vaccine distribution remains a challenge 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. Last week, members of the AAFP Board of Directors met virtually with 34 legislators' offices, including meetings with the offices of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, to discuss a variety of issues important to family medicine. During these meetings, we raised the ongoing concerns about COVID-19 vaccine distribution and personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages and shared how primary care is well-positioned to help with vaccine education and distribution. Other issues we discussed included ways to expand access to coverage and address out-of-pocket costs that result in delays to seeking care.

I encourage you to also get involved in advocacy efforts related to the COVID-19 vaccines. We have set up a [Speak Out](#) opportunity to assist you in contacting your governor about your state's vaccination response.

STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

While the vaccine is garnering a lot of attention, we also continue to treat patients for COVID-19, so I want to remind you that the [AAFP's COVID-19 webpage](#) has resources to assist you as you care for your patients.

Thank you for all that you continue to do for your patients and community!

Ada D. Stewart, MD, FAAFP
President
American Academy of Family Physicians