



February 5, 2021

Dear Provider:

COVID-19 continues to cause alarming rates of hospitalizations, severe illness, even death. Vaccines are critical to address this ongoing public health crisis. That's why frontline healthcare workers – physicians, clinicians, nurses, pharmacists and others – have been given vaccination priority.

Vaccines start with you.

It is important that healthcare workers receive the vaccination and, as the availability of vaccines increases, encourage their patients to do the same. Here's why:

➤ **Vaccines Provide Protection**

Healthcare workers who are not vaccinated can put others at risk. "Physicians and other healthcare workers who decline to be immunized with a safe and effective vaccine, without a compelling medical reason, can pose an unnecessary medical risk to vulnerable patients or colleagues," American Medical Association (AMA) Board Member Michael Suk, MD, JD, MPH, MBA, said, according to [the organization's website](#).

➤ **Patients Trust Their Providers**

"Physicians are one of the most trusted sources of information for their patients on vaccines. Providing a strong recommendation is critical for vaccine acceptance," the AMA states in its [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#) for physicians.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) also encourages providers to support vaccinations: "Patients consistently rank healthcare providers as their most trusted source for vaccine information. ... Share the importance of COVID-19 vaccines to protect patients' health, as well as the health of those around them, or talk about your personal plans to get a COVID-19 vaccine."

➤ **Known Risks vs. Benefits**

The two currently available vaccines "have now shown remarkable effectiveness of about 95% in preventing COVID-19 disease in adults," the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said in a [statement about these vaccines](#).

The CDC outlines [what providers can say](#) to those worried about receiving the vaccine: "We don't know how long protection lasts for those who get infected or those who are vaccinated. What we do know is that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice."

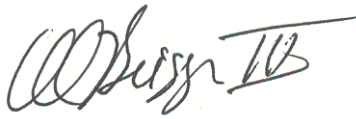
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➤ **Monitoring Vaccine Safety**

The rapid development of the available vaccines is unprecedented, but that doesn't make them unsafe. The FDA issued emergency use authorization for the two currently publicly available vaccines after reviewing safety data from clinical trials. The FDA and CDC are continuing to monitor vaccine usage to identify side effects.

We believe the publicly available vaccines can help prevent more illnesses and deaths, and ultimately help to eradicate COVID-19. We ask that you join us in your support of these critical vaccinations.

Sincerely,



Dow Briggs, M.D.
Executive Vice President



Darrel Weaver, M.D.
Vice President of Healthcare Networks Services



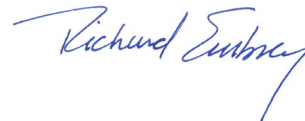
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