

December 23, 2020

Coalition of Hospice and Palliative Care Organizations Recommends COVID-19 Vaccination

An open letter to all hospice and palliative care professionals, volunteers and caregivers

As the leading national organizations representing hospice and palliative care professionals – including frontline workers such as physicians, nurses, physician assistants, social workers, chaplains, and pharmacists – members of the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care urge all hospice and palliative care workers, volunteers and caregivers who do not have a medical contraindication to receive a COVID-19 vaccination at the earliest opportunity consistent with the guidance of public health authorities. We recognize that safety and efficacy have not been established for certain conditions, such as pregnancy, and respect that some people with increased or unknown risks of adverse reactions to vaccines may have to make a personal decision.

The Coalition thanks hospice and palliative care professionals for the tremendous dedication they have shown while serving on the front lines of healthcare delivery during this COVID-19 crisis. The Coalition welcomes the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines as a vital tool for controlling the pandemic. Although suffering and grief are still very much a reality as our nation grapples with the loss to date of 325,000 Americans due to COVID-19, rapid vaccination of most of the population, along with masking, physical distancing and handwashing, offers a clear path to ending this pandemic. Our Coalition trusts the science supporting the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines.

Coalition Members work with people with serious illness who have the most complex medical needs in a variety of settings: home, hospice, hospital, and long-term care facilities. Receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is imperative for the safety of these dedicated and essential healthcare professionals, their families and the people they serve.

Coalition Members have developed multiple resources to help providers address the [COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/covid19/). <https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/covid19/>

Our hope for the new year is simple: our Coalition and our Members urge all hospice and palliative care professionals to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Even more, share your experience with your family members, friends and neighbors, and encourage them to be vaccinated too.

COALITION MEMBERS

American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Association of Professional Chaplains

Center to Advance Palliative Care

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network™

Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association

National Association for Home Care & Hospice

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

National Palliative Care Research Center

Palliative Care Quality Collaborative

Physician Assistants in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network

Society of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacists

Supportive Care Coalition