

Group & Individual News

COVID-19 Conversations: Vaccine safety

The [U.S. Food & Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) has issued Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 vaccinations. This means they have determined that the benefits of the approved vaccines outweigh the risks in preventing COVID-19 infection. The [CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) also recommends COVID-19 vaccines for the prevention of COVID-19.

Clinical trials of the vaccines have included many thousands of people. Currently, there are two FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines: Pfizer's BioNTech vaccine is recommended for individuals 16 years of age and older. The Moderna vaccine is recommended for individuals 18 years of age and older. These two vaccines are still being studied in younger populations and additional guidance is expected. Approvals for additional vaccines are also expected in 2021.

It's important to understand that some side-effects of the vaccine may occur. These may include fever, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, and pain at the injection site. People are encouraged to complete the vaccination series unless they develop a serious reaction, even if they have expected post-vaccination side-effects. Members should go back to the same place where they received their first dose to get their second one. This helps make sure that both doses of the same vaccine are given.

The CDC encourages people to have an informed discussion with their healthcare provider to determine if vaccination is right for them.

How you can help

- Use your influence and voice to educate your clients about COVID-19 vaccinations. Vaccination has been shown to reduce the chance of getting sick from COVID-19, and it may help reduce the spread of the virus. This helps to conserve healthcare resources and a return to more normal day-to-day activities, including work and school. Wide acceptance and administration of the vaccines is also critical to group immunity which protects vulnerable groups who cannot get vaccinated because of health reasons.
- Encourage your clients to refer to credible sources for COVID-19 vaccine information. The [CDC website](#) contains information and links to access reliable information.
- Bookmark Anthem's [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) site for brokers, members and employers. Check back often for important updates and helpful tools and resources.
- Tell your clients about Anthem's [COVID-19 Test Site Finder](#) which makes it easy to find nearby testing locations. Staying out of the ER whenever possible can minimize exposure to illness and help save money.

We appreciate your partnership.

State(s): CO, CT, GA, IN, KY, ME, MO, NH, NV, OH, VA, WI

Segment(s): Small Group, Large Group, Individual