

## Talking Points for Media/Social Media/Website/Polymakers Related to COVID-19 Vaccines

- Describe your organization's mission
- \_\_\_\_\_ organization supports the immunization recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, an independent workgroup of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Here at \_\_\_\_\_, we are watching the news about COVID-19 vaccine development with great interest. We are spending our energies (add items of focus, i.e. working to ensure that the national committees/agencies that are working on distribution include a diverse representation of various ethnic groups and to help reduce ethnic and sociodemographic disparities to ensure equitable and timely access to vaccines. Our organization continues to work with legislators to make certain the vaccines will be available to all, regardless of ability to pay).

### COVID-19 Vaccine Development

- As with all vaccines used in the United States, the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination should outweigh the risks.
- The success and setbacks of the COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine distribution will impact confidence in all routinely recommended vaccines
- Inclusive/Diverse Clinical Trials – The COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial participants should include diverse populations that are representative of those at the highest risk of morbidity and mortality from SARS-COV-2.
- Ensuring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines is of paramount importance. As with other all other vaccines approved by the FDA and recommended for use by the ACIP, all new COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the U.S. should be required to fully demonstrate their safety

### COVID-19 Vaccine Approval & Monitoring

- Decisions made about COVID-19 vaccines approval, Emergency Use Authorization and eventual licensure should be made in the public eye through the usual FDA and ACIP process.
- Transparency is critical to foster public confidence and maximize vaccine use, therefore the involvement of the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biologics Product Approval (VRBPAC) Committee must be an essential part of the vaccine authorization and approval processes.
- All COVID-19 vaccines (including vaccines utilized under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and those approved by the FDA) should be continuously monitored for safety and efficacy post-licensure/post EUA—minimally through the four existing safety systems in the U.S. which are the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment Project (CISA), and the Post-Licensure Rapid Immunization Safety Monitoring System (PRISM).
- All safety data should be presented regularly to the public and to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution**

- To help ensure equitable, appropriate and rapid COVID-19 vaccine distribution, every state should consider creating a statewide task force that includes both officials and experts, including the state's Immunization Program Manager, Community Leaders/Representatives.
- The CDC should be the lead organization overseeing the distribution of the vaccines with logistical help from cross-cutting federal and local entities. CDC should engage with partners and use best practices and lessons learned from the H1N1 flu pandemic to help determine COVID-19 vaccine distribution during the coronavirus pandemic.

- ACIP's COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group and any other groups that are formed to guide ACIP on prioritization and other matters – such as the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) – should represent populations that serve diverse populations and age groups.
- Prioritization and distribution efforts should be evidence-based to ensure equitable distribution to those at the highest risk first. The ACIP should be the body to make final prioritization decisions with input from the National Academy of Medicines.
- Federal and state legislators should work to ensure there are no financial or other types of barriers to accessing COVID-19 vaccination.