



Do Not Hesitate, Vaccinate
Encourage your patients to receive the vaccine



Dear Physician,

As you know, most of your patients are experiencing the first pandemic of their lifetimes and there is a great deal of conflicting information available to them through the news and social media. The reality is, more than a half a million American lives have been lost, and millions more around the world have died from this novel virus. Despite the lifting of mask mandates and the full opening of businesses and events in Texas, the pandemic is not over.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is still circulating worldwide. COVID-19 will continue to spread with opportunities to mutate, so we must reduce that risk. Our best chance to end the pandemic is to vaccinate as many people as possible.

Research tells us that people who are not sure whether they should take the vaccine are receptive to information from their personal physician. That is why we are urging you to proactively have these conversations. The most prevalent concerns relate to the fact that this is a new vaccine that does not have full FDA approval, as well as fear of potential side effects. Here are some statements that might be helpful for these conversations:

- The science behind mRNA vaccines has been in the works for decades and studied for vaccines against influenza, rabies, and Zika.
- mRNA cannot alter your DNA.
- Not everyone experiences side effects after being vaccinated, but those who do usually have mild to moderate symptoms lasting only a day or two.
- The vaccines have been successfully administered for almost a year now in millions of people.
- Once vaccinated, you are less likely to become seriously ill should you become infected.
- Increasing evidence suggests that a person who has been vaccinated is less likely to infect others.

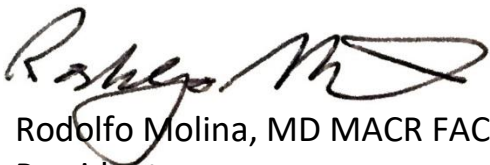
We are writing today to ask you to encourage your patients to receive one of the available COVID-19 vaccines. Attached, please find a card that can be printed and shared with

patients. If you would like us to send over hard copies of this card, please contact Brissa Vela at: Brissa.Vela@bcms.org. Below please find additional resources.

Immunizations are our gateway out of this pandemic. Please take the time to have these conversations and do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if we can provide additional resources to help you with this important outreach.

Thank you for all you are doing to serve our community and to end this pandemic.

Sincerely,



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Monica Kapur, MD
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Additional Resources and Citations

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines*. [Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#), accessed April 28, 2021

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines*. [Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#), accessed April 28, 2021

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine*. [Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#), accessed April 28, 2021

Harvard Health Publishing, *COVID-19 Vaccines*. [COVID-19 vaccines - Harvard Health](#), accessed April 28, 2021

HealthFocusSA, *COVID-19 Vaccines Have Arrived*. [COVID-19 vaccines have arrived | Health Focus San Antonio](#), accessed April 28, 2021

Time magazine, *mRNA Technology Gave Us the First COVID-19 Vaccines*. [How mRNA Technology Gave Us the First COVID-19 Vaccines | Time](#), accessed April 28, 2021