

In December 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved two COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna) for vaccination from the SARS-CoV-2 virus under Emergency Use Authorization. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved recommendations to use these vaccines in the indicated populations. The AAN has confidence in the vaccine trials and the FDA and ACIP data evaluation processes, which have been evidence-based, rigorous, and transparent, using well-established methods and principles to systematically review and rate evidence. The AAN supports the vaccination recommendations by the FDA.

The AAN is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving landscape of COVID-19 vaccines and their impacts on neurologic care. Data to support evidence-based recommendations on the implications of vaccination for specific neurologic diseases are not yet available. Therefore, clinicians who care for patients with neurologic disorders should continue to support and participate in efforts to collect data necessary for evidence-based recommendations specific to neurologic patients. The FDA must also continue to keep health care providers informed about vaccine authorizations, standards for review, and safety and efficacy data so that health care providers can address patients' questions and concerns.

At the core of its mission, the AAN promotes high-quality, patient-centered neurologic care. Neurologists have a duty to promote the safety of their patients and staff. In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 to the high-risk patients who seek our care, the AAN strongly encourages that all eligible neurology health care providers become vaccinated against COVID-19 and support vaccination for all patients who qualify. In addition, the AAN strongly supports efforts to ensure all patients have equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination. Health care professionals must model and promote evidence-based public health education and practices including vaccinations, mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing.

About the AAN

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) is the world's largest neurology specialty society representing more than 36,000 neurologists and clinical neuroscience professionals. The AAN is dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. A neurologist is a physician with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system. These disorders affect one in six people and include conditions such as multiple sclerosis (MS), Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, migraine, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, ALS, and spinal muscular atrophy.