



February 1, 2021

Dear Members of the ACA/NY Family,

Just as 2020 brought tremendous challenges in the fight against COVID-19, the beginning of 2021 is ushering in reason for hope. The rapid development of multiple vaccines means we now have a way to combat the virus, protect our loved ones and ourselves, and fight the disease that has wreaked havoc on so many lives.

Vaccine manufacturers have conducted extensive testing and clinical trials in accordance with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) strict standards. Their conclusions were verified by New York State's independent COVID-19 Clinical Advisory Task Force, which has recommended an expedited rollout to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC has expanded its vaccine safety monitoring protocols so we can all have confidence in the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

Since this is all happening very quickly, ACA/NY knows it can be confusing to find current and reliable information about the vaccination program. To help you stay informed, ACA/NY has set up a comprehensive COVID-19 Resource Center on our newly created website, www.acany.org. It's filled with timely, useful data you can trust as you make plans to be vaccinated, including information on eligibility, safety protocols, vaccination sites and more.

A few key facts about the COVID-19 vaccine:

- The vaccine is extremely effective in protecting you from the virus. If you do contract the disease, the vaccine will help reduce the severity of your symptoms. Currently, two doses of the vaccine are needed for full efficacy.
- After receiving the COVID-19 vaccination, there may be minor side effects. This is completely normal and they tend to go away quickly.
- The vaccination is completely free.
- Vaccinations are "by appointment only" at the many sites set up by New York State.
- Even after you are vaccinated you will need to wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines. It may take as many as two months for the vaccine to become fully effective.

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ACA/NY's Upcoming Family Forums

ACA/NY will be hosting two virtual Family Forums entitled **The COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout: Get the Facts**. They are scheduled for February 10 and February 23 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We encourage you to participate, ask questions and hear about the latest updates. To learn more, go to www.acany.org/news.

The best way to stay informed is to check the ACA/NY website regularly for updates. All information is consistent with CDC and New York State guidelines. If you have further questions, don't hesitate to reach out to your Care Manager.

I received my first vaccination in January. Please join me and make an appointment to get yours. If we all do our part, together we can usher in a brighter chapter for each of us, our families and our fellow citizens.

Warmest wishes,

Lou Grossman

Lewis Grossman
Chief Executive Officer