

# Major medical groups urge Americans to get COVID vaccine

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(HealthDay)—Want to live like you did in the carefree days before the

pandemic?

Just roll up your sleeve when your turn comes to get the COVID-19 [vaccine](#), three major medical groups urge in a new public service campaign.

The vaccines are safe, effective and will help end the [pandemic](#), according to the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association and American Nurses Association.

"To defeat COVID-19 and get back the moments with friends and family we all miss, we need as many shots in arms as possible," said Rick Pollack, president and CEO of the hospital association.

"It's imperative that all Americans consider the health of their loved ones and make the decision to take the COVID-19 vaccine when it is their turn," Pollack said in a joint association news release.

Dr. Susan Bailey, president of the American Medical Association, agreed, calling on Americans to exercise civic responsibility.

"Whether enough people get the COVID-19 vaccine decides our future and the future toll of the virus, so be ready to do your part," Bailey said.

## **What if you have concerns in the meantime?**

Ernest Grant, president of the American Nurses Association, suggested reaching out to a nurse, doctor or other health care professional to get your questions answered.

"Try to connect with someone you know and trust who has received a COVID-19 vaccine and ask them about their experience to help you make an [informed decision](#)," he advised in the release.

The [mass distribution](#) and administration of COVID-19 shots marks a turning point in the pandemic, Grant said.

"Vaccination will help protect us from this [deadly virus](#) so we can get back to the people, the hobbies and the activities that we all cherish and miss," he said.

Over the past year, the three groups have worked together to increase public acceptance of other measures crucial in fighting the pandemic, including wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing and washing hands frequently.

In December, they released an open letter urging [health care](#) professionals to get COVID-19 vaccines and share their experience with others.

**More information:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on [COVID-19 vaccines](#).

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