

## TALKING POINTS FOR PHYSICIANS

### Overall Talking Points:

- **The COVID-19 vaccines available to Oklahomans are safe and effective.**
  - All COVID-19 vaccines available to Oklahomans have been authorized for use in the U.S. by the FDA.
    - These vaccines have gone through extensive testing.
    - The FDA has rigorous scientific and regulatory processes in place that ensure the safety, effectiveness and quality of COVID-19 vaccines.
  - All COVID-19 vaccines are undergoing some of the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.
    - Through this monitoring system, the vaccines have been proven to be highly effective at preventing hospitalizations and deaths as a result of COVID-19.
  - Side effects are common, but are typically mild and should go away within a few days.
    - Side effects, or an immune response, are a normal sign that your body is building protection after vaccination.
    - The most commonly reported side effects are in line with other commonly distributed vaccines and include muscle aches, headache, fatigue or other flu-like symptoms. You may also experience soreness or swelling in the arm where you got the shot.
  - COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an immune system response without having to experience sickness from COVID-19, which could have serious, life-threatening complications.
  - It is important to get the vaccine even if you have had COVID-19 in the past.
    - While current evidence suggests coronavirus reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection, it's still unknown how long this protection lasts.
    - The vaccine creates a greater immune response, which better prepares the body to fight off the coronavirus in the future.
- **We're at a critical point in the fight against COVID-19, and a vaccine is just one part of the solution.**
  - We strongly encourage everyone to consider getting the COVID-19 vaccine. The more people that receive the vaccine now, the faster we protect everyone from this virus.
    - Getting the vaccine as soon as possible will protect you and others around you, even if you've already been exposed to COVID or are considered low risk.

- We want this virus to hit a wall every time it tries to spread from person to person.
- The vaccine helps fulfill two purposes:
  - First, getting the vaccine will help protect you as an individual. This is especially important for our most vulnerable citizens.
  - Second, getting the vaccine helps slow the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities. To achieve this, we need to vaccinate large numbers of Oklahomans.
- Every day, thousands of Oklahomans are safely reaching full vaccination status. This is exciting, but we should continue practicing safety precautions to protect those around us who are not vaccinated yet.
  - Continue practicing the three Ws: wash your hands, wear a mask and watch your distance, especially in public places.
  - Overall, trends are still showing a decrease in cases and hospitalizations. This is good news, but in order to keep cases down we need everyone to continue taking precautions in public like following the 3 W's.
- These actions, in conjunction with the vaccine plan, can make a huge difference in keeping our families and communities safe and healthy in the long term.