



### **Staff Vaccinations: Tips to Promote Staff Acceptance of Covid-19 Vaccines**

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life, not just in New York State (NYS), but globally, and has presented unprecedented challenges in our everyday lives. In NYS alone there has been over 1 million confirmed Covid-19 cases with an astounding 38,315 deaths (NYT 1/5/2021). This pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives – work and home, schools and childcare services, interpersonal relationships, socialization, commute, and food sources. Many of us have watched loved ones suffer or know of someone whose life has ended too soon due to the infection. Some of us are suffering from loneliness, anxiety and depression because of the pandemic and long for a return to what we now refer to as “normalcy.” Rest assured all is not lost – there is hope in the Covid-19 vaccines.

The Covid-19 vaccines is a key tool that promises to bring the Covid-19 pandemic to a halt, but this can only be achieved if enough of us get vaccinated. As a Nursing Home employee, you have a great advantage – you are among the first group of people to be offered the vaccine (reiterate this fact). Take advantage of this opportunity – do it for yourself, your loved ones, and the vulnerable residents you care for; be an example for everyone else.

1. Engage in an “All Hands On Deck” Campaign to Vaccinate
  - Get everyone involved – Administrator, DNS, Infection Preventionist, Medical Director, Department Heads, Union Representatives, and staff who have already been vaccinated
  - Lead by example – get vaccinated yourself. Identify Facility Vaccine “Champions” to be available to staff and residents.
  - Provide factual information; have the Medical Director speak 1:1 with staff, residents and healthcare representatives to reiterate the damaging, long-term effects of Covid-19 infection (refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects.html>) and how the vaccine can help to mitigate some of these effects
  - Consider hosting Town Hall Meetings to provide information and answer questions/address concerns
  - Spend one-on-one time with staff to encourage getting vaccinated
  - Have staff who have already receive the vaccine to encourage peers to get vaccinated (word of mouth)
  - With permission, post pictures of staff who have received the vaccine throughout the building and perhaps on the facility’s website and on social media.
  - Contact comminute news media/local elected representatives to engage them in thanking staff and facility.
2. Post pro-Covid Vaccine posters in high-trafficked areas
3. Distribute Covid-19 vaccine fact sheet to staff
4. Find ways to show appreciation for getting vaccinated
  - Covid-19 vaccine stickers, t-shirts, gift cards, refreshments, etc.