



FAFP President's Message

Fall 2023 COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations

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Last week the CDC released its recommendation that everyone six months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illness this fall and winter.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and state surgeon general Dr. Joseph Ladopa issued a separate recommendation against vaccination of individuals under 65: "Based on the high rate of global immunity and currently available data, the State Surgeon General recommends against the COVID-19 booster for individuals under 65. Individuals 65 and older should discuss this information with their health care provider, including potential concerns outlined in this [guidance](#)."

We now have three years of [data](#) regarding COVID-19 infections, sequelae, vaccine safety, efficacy, and natural immunity. Family Physicians are well positioned to weigh the evidence and guide ALL of our patients to make informed decisions based on their personal risk factors. While we as a global community are fortunately in a different position with COVID-19 related illness than we were over the past few years, we recognize the benefit vaccines provide in protecting against severe disease, hospitalizations, and death. Family physicians will continue to do what we do best, empowering our patients to make the best choice for their own health.