## COVID-19 VACCINE TALKING POINTS

- We strongly urge 1199 members to take the COVID-19 vaccine, as we believe that it is a critical tool to protect our families, ourselves and our patients, residents and clients as we fight to put an end to this deadly virus.
- The union does not support a mandate of the vaccine. We know that healthcare workers are the most trusted voices on the issue, and are well equipped to make the best possible choice for your families.

The vaccine is our pathway back to normal life. It will allow us to reconnect with our entire families.

• We understand that there are some concerns regarding the speed at which the vaccine was developed. Early testing has shown that the vaccine is safe and effective. The union's recommendation is based on our review of the facts from

trusted doctors and scientists who have reviewed studies that included more than 70,000 people in the U.S.

- We acknowledge our nation's history of racism and medical discrimination, but we do not believe that those issues have had any part in the development or distribution of this vaccine.
- After what we have all seen over the last nine months, the risks of NOT getting the vaccine far outweigh any risks of getting the vaccine.
- Reported side effects like injection site pain, occasional fever and nausea are minimal and short-lived. These side effects are similar to those experienced after receiving the flu vaccine.
- The vaccine is our pathway back to normal life. It will allow all of us to reconnect with our kids, grandkids, grandparents, and our entire families.
- We know that our members have important questions, and we remain ready and willing to answer those questions, along with 1199's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Dunn.
- We also believe that the government has a responsibility to be transparent and forthcoming with information. We are committed to providing our members with the most up-to-date information as it becomes available.





## STARTING A CONVERSATION WITH MEMBERS ABOUT GETTING VACCINATED

Open with a question about what the members are hearing and how they are feeling about the vaccine. Get a sense of where they are as of now on taking the vaccine (Yes, Yes but later, Undecided, Probably No, No).

In a "sharing information" tone, inform the members of the Union's two key positions:

- a. the Union recommends that you take the vaccine;
- **b.** the Union has, from the very start of the vaccine discussion, stated clearly that it is each member's decision on whether to take the vaccine and no employer or government body can force you to take it.

You can refer to the **FAQs** or the **Talking Points** (on the reverse) to answer any questions that the members may have or concerns that they may raise.

You can also add that President Gresham, Dr. Dunn, Barack Obama, and Dr. Fauci will take the vaccine.

Finally, refer members to the <u>Union's</u> and <u>Benefit Funds'</u> websites that host the Frequently Asked Questions, with the answers that Dr. Dunn has provided. They can also ask additional questions on the sites.