

Stay Calm
Stay Prepared
Stay Informed
CALTCM.org

Webinar Series

COVID-19: CALTCM Weekly Rounds

December 14, 2020

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Michael Wasserman, MD, CMD



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Upcoming Webinars

Happy Holidays!
January 11 & 25
February 8 & 22

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Housekeeping

- **To help keep background noise to a minimum, please mute your microphone when you are not speaking.**
- We invite you to turn on your cameras.
- During Q&A, you are invited to unmute your line to ask questions and participate in the discussion.
 - Feel free to raise your hand when you have a question.
 - Please do not talk over others.
- **Review your name** and make any necessary adjustments.
- **Close all other windows and apps**, especially mail and messaging programs.

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Webinar Faculty

Louise Aronson, MD, MFA
Professor of Medicine
UCSF Division of Geriatrics
Author, New York Times bestseller and
Pulitzer Prize finalist, *Elderhood: Redefining
Aging, Transforming Medicine, and
Reimagining Life*
Member, California state COVID-19 vaccine
allocation workgroup and memory care and
assisted living task forces



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Webinar Faculty

Jay Luxenberg, MD
Chief Medical Officer, On Lok
CALTCM, Wave Editor-in-Chief



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Webinar Faculty

Art Reingold, MD
Epidemiology Division Head, School of Public
Health, UC Berkeley
Worked over forty years on the prevention
and control of infectious diseases both at the
national level, including eight years at the US
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
as well as numerous developing countries
around the world. He's directed or co-directed
the CDC-funded California Emerging
Infections Program since its inception in 1994



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Webinar Moderator

Karl E. Steinberg, MD, CMD, HMDC
President-Elect, AMDA: The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine;
CALTCM BOD Member; Chief Medical Officer,
Mariner Health Care; Past Chair, Coalition for
Compassionate Care of California



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Webinar Faculty

Michael Wasserman, MD, CMD
Geriatrician
Member of the Community Vaccine Advisory
Committee
Immediate Past-President and Chair, Public
Policy Committee, CALTCM



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**COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation
in Nursing Homes:
A Guide for Facility Leadership**

**Michael Wasserman, MD, CMD
CALTCM**



*Special thanks to Dr. Leslie Eber, AMDA,
and the CALTCM Vaccine Delphi Group*



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COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitation is Real*

- Specific LTC staff concerns:
 - "Being first"
 - Safety
 - Not being represented in the vaccine trials
- Most important factors for acceptance
 - Efficacy
 - Duration of protection
 - Lower incidence of major side effects
- Other factors:
 - EUA (Emergency Use Authorization)
 - Vaccine developed outside the United States.

*JAMA Network Open. 2020;3(10):e2025594. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.25594

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NAHCA INFORMAL POLL
 CNAs Respond to, "Will You Take the COVID Vaccine? Yes or No."

Response	Number	Percentage
No	2,233	71.6%
Undecided	188	6.0%
Yes	698	22.4%
TOTAL	3,119	100%

*This informal polling took place across various platforms NAHCA is engaged in.
 *Not a controlled survey.
 *NAHCA will be performing a more controlled survey and analysis.

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**NAHCA Informal Poll:
 Vaccine Hesitancy in CNAs**

- **Themes**
 - Lack of trust.
 - Lack of education and information on the vaccine.
- **Sub-Themes**
 - Hesitancy due to rapidness of vaccine launch.
 - Lack of information on potential risks and side effects.
 - Some will not take the vaccine unless it's mandatory. Others will quit the profession entirely if made mandatory.
 - No knowledge of the ingredients in the vaccine.
 - For those who said they would take it, the reasoning was due to experience in already contracting the virus or to protect their residents.

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Best Practice: Town Halls
“Respect, Honor & Value”

- If possible, focus first “town hall” session on allowing staff to share their concerns
- It is critical that staff knows that you are *HEARING* their concerns
- Demonstrate that their concerns are being heard
- Do not try to correct concerns
- Have multiple town halls, to allow time to digest information

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How to Frame the Conversation

- Don't force the issue
- Meet people where they are
 - Everyone has questions and concerns and that is understandable
 - Answer questions with respect and honesty
- Most Important: This is what we have been waiting for!
 - This is how we save lives, our own, and everyone around us
 - For the first time in the United States, long term care staff are first, we have risked our lives caring for our residents and now we can protect everyone even more

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A Strategy for COVID-19 Education

- Is it safe?
- Why should we trust the vaccine?
- Is there new technology being used and is that dangerous to me?
- What is an EUA and what does that mean for me?
- When and how long will I be protected?
- Will I still need to wear a mask?
- **Expectations: Important to warn people about possible side effects**
- Special circumstances: What if I had COVID-19 or if I have antibodies?
- **REVIEW: WHERE ARE YOU GETTING YOUR INFORMATION?**

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Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

- Safety is the most important priority in vaccine approval.
- Most adverse side effects occur within 6 weeks of vaccine administration, and the FDA has required 8 weeks of safety monitoring.
- FDA advises a minimum of 3,000 participants to assess safety. The current phase 3 trials have 30,000 to 50,000 participants. This really demonstrates how safety is a top priority for the FDA and the medical community.

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Why should we trust the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The FDA is using the same standards that it has for decades
- There are no steps being "skipped"
- Two (2) advisory committees:
 - 1) The Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) that advises the FDA
 - 2) The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that advises the CDC.

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New Technology for the COVID-19 Vaccine

- mRNA Vaccines
- Viral Vectors
- Can these new technologies give me COVID-19? **NO**
- Can these new technologies change my DNA? **NO**

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**What is an
EUA and
what does
that mean for
me?**

- An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a vaccine is based on the need to use a vaccine quickly to save lives during a public health emergency.
- EUA is a shorter process **but no steps are skipped in the safety evaluation process.**
- FDA approval can still take weeks.
- The FDA will assess if the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks.
- Both advisory boards (VRBPAC and ACIP) will also review all the data and make recommendations.
- An EUA does **not** imply that the authorization was done too quickly or that the vaccine is not safe.

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**When and how
long will I be
protected by
the COVID-19
vaccine?**

- Be Transparent and Honest
- We will most likely not know how long the vaccine will be protective when we receive it
 - More research needed
- Most of the vaccines are 2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart
- Protection 1-2 weeks after the second dose
- May need to have vaccine shots for COVID-19 on a regular basis (like the flu shot)

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Will I still need to wear a mask?

YES!

Wear it properly!

Wash your hands!

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**Important:
Warn About
Possible Side
Effects**

**Will the vaccine
make me sick?**

- Short-term discomfort : Headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever and pain at injection site
- 1-2 days
- Same symptoms as COVID-19:
 - **Emphasize that the vaccine cannot give you COVID-19**
- More pronounced with second dose
- Normal and common
- It means your body is doing its job and making antibodies (IT IS A GOOD THING)
- **MUST COME BACK FOR SECOND DOSE, must be the same vaccine as the first dose**

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**Special
Circumstances:**

**Past COVID-19
Infection or
Tested for
Antibodies**

- It is safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you have had COVID-19
- If + Antibodies PLEASE get the COVID-19 Vaccine
- Monoclonal antibody treatment trial

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You Will Be the Leader and Role Model

- Tell your own vaccine story:
 - Talk about how will you make your decision
- Lead by doing:
 - Discuss with staff/family your decision to get the vaccine and talk about your experience after you get immunized

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Facility Logistical Challenges

- Need to stagger vaccinations
 - Resident side effects and caregiver needs
 - Potential for staff call outs
- Consent forms
- Unrepresented residents

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Resources

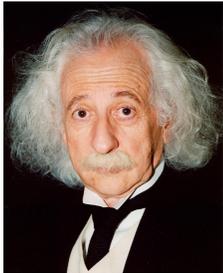
CALTCM Vaccine Resources
<https://www.caltcm.org/covid-19>

AMDA COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit
<https://bit.ly/2VPvsV8>

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Questions

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Check the CALTCM Website (CALTCM.org) and
e-newsletter, the CALTCM Wave, for updates.

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Q & A

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SAVE A LIFE!**

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