



August 19, 2021

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) remains steadfast in its mission to improve and facilitate quality, effective, efficient, and accessible care so patients diagnosed with cancer can live better lives. There has been no time in our recent past when this alliance of leading cancer centers has come into sharper focus than with the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The NCCN COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee was organized to develop guidance for COVID-19 vaccination among cancer patients. This committee includes members throughout the country, including Hematology/Oncology physicians as well as experts in Transplantation, Infectious Diseases/Infection Prevention, and Biomedical Ethics. To date, this committee has developed three versions of this guidance to remain current with changes in access, vaccine-related side effects, and emerging data on efficacy among cancer patients.

The NCCN COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee fully supports vaccine mandates for healthcare workers. Patients with cancer are more susceptible to COVID-19 complications and may not mount effective immune responses to vaccination, so it is incumbent on healthcare workers to be immunized against COVID-19. In so doing, we help to create a cocoon effect in which vulnerable individuals are protected from COVID-19 by vaccinating those who care for these patients. Vaccination of our healthcare workforce cannot prevent all exposures to SARS-CoV-2, but it assures that we as a community are doing all we can to meet this important goal. In addition, transmission clusters among healthcare workers have occurred at many institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic despite mitigation efforts, and such events can have profound consequences on already stressed and stretched healthcare systems. By ensuring that our workforces are immunized, we protect our patients and our colleagues.

NCCN is committed to continuing to support ongoing efforts to assure cancer care can continue safely during current and future waves of COVID-19 illness. By supporting policies that mandate vaccination of our healthcare workers and employees, we also demonstrate that our alliance is united in the mission to protect our patients from COVID-19 and to ending the pandemic.

Sincerely,

NCCN COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee