

# COVID-19 Vaccination

## *Revised Position Statement*

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) provide essential life-saving services for patients impacted by COVID-19. Currently, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are increasing across the United States.<sup>1</sup> This trend is driven by the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) which is a highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 virus strain.<sup>1,2</sup> The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is occurring in areas with low vaccination rates, and a majority of hospitalizations and deaths have been among the unvaccinated.<sup>1,3,4</sup>

### **Position Statement**

The American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) supports offering COVID-19 vaccination to frontline healthcare personnel, including CRNAs and nurse anesthesiology students. The AANA also strongly encourages healthcare personnel to be vaccinated to protect their patients, colleagues, families, and themselves. While vaccine hesitancy exists among some patients and healthcare providers, AANA encourages education and review of scientific evidence about the vaccine and its impact on infection prevention, patient care, infection spread, and herd immunity.<sup>5-8</sup> The COVID-19 vaccination is a critical prevention measure to reduce infection spread and mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthcare systems and facilities may choose to mandate the COVID-19 vaccination for all personnel. It is important that these mandates take into account any state-level requirements and that facilities provide reasonable accommodations for personnel who are exempt from mandatory vaccination.<sup>9</sup>

Healthcare workers are more likely to be exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and studies have shown that vaccination is highly effective in preventing spread under real-world conditions.<sup>10</sup> The COVID-19 vaccine is an additional tool to support clinician and patient safety. CRNAs should continue to use appropriate personal protective equipment and follow safety precautions including infection prevention and control and hand hygiene practices.<sup>11</sup>

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