

## Tips for Vaccinating People Living With Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias

**V** Visual aids can be helpful

**A** Assess capacity & use 'best interests' if needed

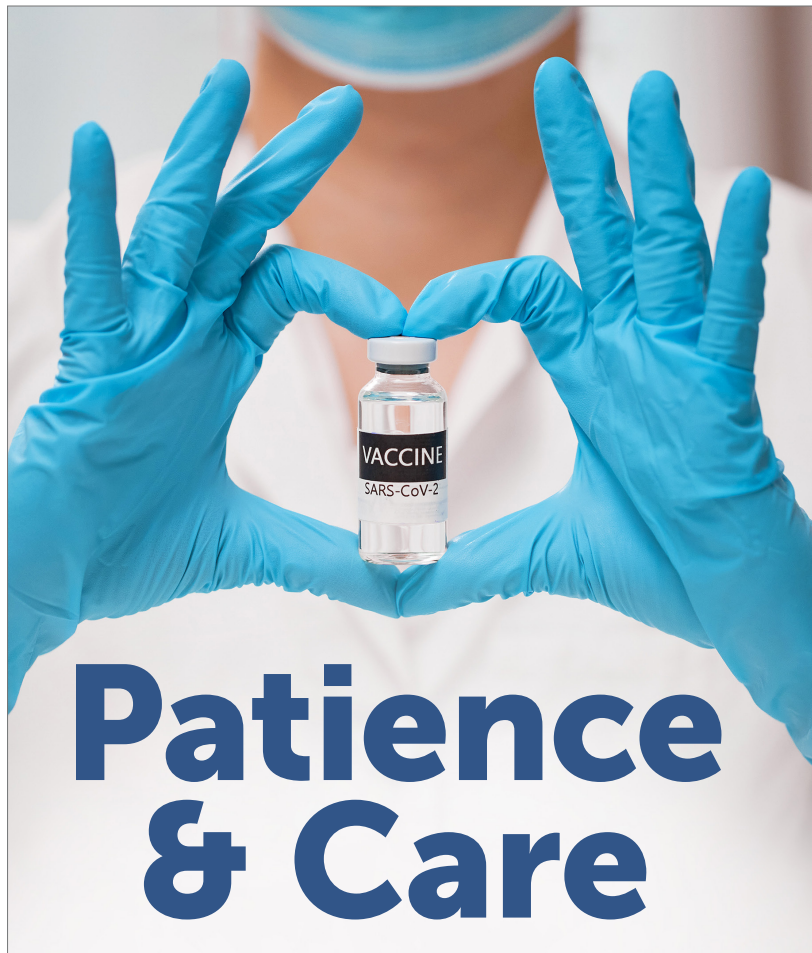
**C** Check with a doctor

**C** Communicate clearly and offer reassurance

**I** Individualized approach

**N** Never rush

**E** Engage family & relatives



## Patience & Care

The COVID-19 vaccine is offered to Florida seniors and individuals who are at highest risk for, and/or living with serious medical complications. ***This includes people living with dementia and those who have certain conditions that increase their risk of becoming seriously ill.*** Vaccine eligibility continues to expand as doses become more readily available.

Vaccines are an important step in protecting the health and safety of Floridians. It is important for individuals and families to consult with health care providers about questions related to the vaccine.



DEMENTIA  
CARE & CURE INITIATIVE  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

Elder Helpline:  
1-800-96-ELDER  
(1-800-963-5337)

ELDERAFFAIRS.ORG



“ In Florida, we have put Seniors First from day one. I am pleased to continue to stand by our seniors – especially those living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias – they are a priority for vaccine distribution. ”

~ Governor Ron DeSantis

## Tips for Explaining the COVID-19 Vaccine to Patients and Their Families

- ▶ Explain why the vaccine is being offered.
- ▶ Use short, clear sentences and repeat things if needed.
- ▶ Advise the vaccine is not mandatory, but is highly recommended.
- ▶ Sample language:

“ The vaccine is to protect you from the COVID-19 virus. ”

“ The vaccine won’t give you COVID-19. ”

“ I would like your permission to give you the vaccine. ”

## Tips for Healthcare Providers Administering the COVID-19 Vaccine

**Check with a doctor:** Check first to ensure the person has never had a serious allergic reaction to medicines, vaccines, or food. Seek trusted medical advice before giving the vaccine.

**Stick to the schedule:** Choose a time and place that suits the person, keeping noise and distraction to a minimum. Try not to rush if possible. Get to the facility in plenty of time.

**Use simple language and clear instructions:** For example, say “Here’s the shot for your vaccine. I’m going to inject it into your right arm, right here. I need you to hold still.” Try to provide reassurance. Smile, remain calm, and speak in a relaxed, easy tone. After the vaccine has been given, offer reassurance and explain any after-effects. For example, “Some people can get a sore arm, headache or fever after the injection.”

**Give them time:** Give the person time to hear and ask you any questions. If they refuse, stop and try again later. If you can, engage someone they respond well to, or consider playing music the person likes in the background to help them relax.

**Visual cues:** Visual prompt cards can be used to provide further explanation.

**Keep eye contact:** Try kneeling or sitting down so you are at the same physical level as the person and make eye contact to make communication easier.

## Find Out More

Find out where to get a vaccine in your area: [floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator](https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator)

To learn about the COVID-19 vaccination: [floridahealthcovid19.gov/covid-19-vaccines-in-florida](https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/covid-19-vaccines-in-florida)

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STATE OF FLORIDA

