

June 24, 2021

To: Governors of California, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington State

- Governor Gavin Newsom, California
- Governor Steve Sisolak, Nevada
- Governor Kate Brown, Oregon
- Governor Jay Inslee, Washington

From: Arthur Reingold, MD, Chair
Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup

At its meeting on June 23, 2021, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup reviewed the evidence concerning cases of myocarditis and pericarditis among recipients of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines (i.e. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines) presented at the meeting of the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) earlier that day.

The Workgroup concluded that, based on the evidence available at this time, myocarditis and pericarditis in recipients of the vaccines are extremely rare side effects, and that most cases of myocarditis and pericarditis in vaccine recipients are self-limited, with individuals typically recovering on their own or with minimal treatment. Given the continuing circulation of SARS-CoV-2 in our states and throughout the U.S; the increasing proportion of such infections caused by the highly transmissible Delta variant; and the resulting COVID-19 illnesses (including myocarditis) and hospitalizations primarily among unvaccinated individuals, including in otherwise healthy young people 15-25 years of age, the Workgroup concluded that the known benefits of vaccination with COVID-19 mRNA vaccines substantially outweigh the very small risk of myocarditis and pericarditis following receipt of these vaccines.

As a result, the Workgroup continues to strongly support vaccination against COVID-19 for everyone 12 years of age and older, excepting individuals with a history of a severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to a component of COVID-19 vaccine, congruent with the recommendations of many leading medical and public health organizations (<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/06/23/statement-following-cdc-acip-meeting-nations-leading-doctors-nurses-public-health-leaders-benefits-vaccination.html>). The Workgroup also recommends strongly that monitoring for and

reporting to VAERS of suspected cases of myocarditis and pericarditis, as well as other adverse events following receipt of COVID-19 vaccines, be continued.

Respectfully submitted:

Members of the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup:

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California Members:

- Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH, California Department of Public Health and State Health Officer
- Eric Goosby, MD, UCSF School of Medicine
- Rodney Hood, MD, UC San Diego Alumnus and National Medical Association
- Nicola Klein, MD, Ph.D., Kaiser Permanente Northern California
- Grace M. Lee, MD, MPH, Stanford Children's Health and Stanford University School of Medicine
- Bonnie Maldonado, MD, Stanford University School of Medicine and Stanford Children's Health
- Mark H. Sawyer, MD, UC San Diego School of Medicine and Rady Children's Hospital
- Robert Schechter, MD, California Department of Public Health
- Peter G. Szilagyi, MD, MPH, UCLA Health and David Geffen School of Medicine
- Matt Zahn, MD, Orange County Health Care Agency

Nevada Members:

- Ihsan Azzam, MD, Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer, State of Nevada
- Karissa Loper, MPH, Health Bureau Chief, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Oregon Members:

- Laura Byerly, MD, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center
- Louis J. Picker, MD, OHSU Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute

Washington Members:

- John Dunn, MD, MPH, Kaiser Permanente Washington
- Edgar K. Marcuse, MD, MPH, University of Washington School of Medicine