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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Care Groups Encourage All Eligible North Carolinians to Get Vaccinated Now

RALEIGH – The North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) and the NC Academy of Family Physicians, representing thousands of physicians statewide, encourage everyone eligible to get their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. Now it is easier than ever to access the vaccine as more physician practices have it and can administer it during regular appointments, and in some cases, can accommodate walk-in visits.

Check with your trusted physician who can answer your questions and concerns and advise you on the best way to get vaccinated. Local health departments and other providers also have supplies of COVID-19 vaccines. Community organizations also are working to arrange in home appointments and/or provide transportation to those who find it hard to get to their doctor or other vaccination venue. Learn more about where and how you can get a vaccine here.

"It's crucial that those who have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19 make a plan to get the vaccine and luckily that is easier now than ever before," said NCMS President **Philip Brown, Jr., MD**. "For those who have concerns or questions that have kept them from getting vaccinated, please call your doctor who can provide the facts about the vaccine and likely even administer it in their office."

According to the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) currently about a third of North Carolina's population eligible to be vaccinated is fully vaccinated. To help stop the pandemic, scientists and public health experts have estimated that 80 to 90 percent of the population nationwide need to be immune either through vaccination or having had COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers factual information about the vaccine to dispel myths and address any hesitancy about being vaccinated at <u>this site</u>.

"We all want to get out of this pandemic, said **Jessica Triche, MD**, President of the NC Academy of Family Physicians. "The one sure way we can move back toward normalcy is by having as many North Carolinians vaccinated as possible. Please get your shot."

(more)

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About the North Carolina Medical Society

"The North Carolina Medical Society is the oldest professional member organization in North Carolina, representing physicians and physician assistants who practice in the state. Founded in 1849, the Society seeks to provide leadership in medicine by uniting, serving and representing physicians and their health care teams to enhance the health of North Carolinians."

About the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians

The North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, Inc. (NCAFP) is a non-profit professional association headquartered in Raleigh representing over 4,200 family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students across North Carolina. The NCAFP is a constituent chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians, based in Leawood, Kansas. For assistance in coordinating interviews with Dr. Jessica Triche, NCAFP President, please contact Executive Vice President Greg Griggs at 919-833-2110 or <u>geriggs@ncafp.com</u>.

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