



## THE MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION

### MGA MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FEEDBACK REGARDING COVID-19 VACCINE AND MG

Dear Community Members of the MGA,

The following responses are meant for patients over the age of 16 or 18, dependent upon the Pfizer or Moderna type of vaccine.

As of December 18th, 2020:

- While there are some unknowns, the MGA Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) believes that a COVID-19 vaccine is generally a good idea for those living with myasthenia gravis (MG), immunosuppressed or not. There appears to be no known MG-specific contraindication to the novel mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccines.
- If you are given the option to choose a vaccine, we suggest getting the vaccine with the highest rate of protection. If you are not given a choice, we encourage getting one of the COVID-19 vaccines currently offered as we believe the benefits appear to outweigh the risks. The published data from the phase 1 preclinical studies for both vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech & Moderna) suggests good safety and good tolerability.
- A concern for MG patients is that immunosuppressant drugs can reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine in generating an immune response against the virus that causes COVID-19. Therefore, getting vaccinated while on lower doses of immunosuppressant drugs may be more effective. Nevertheless, if this is not possible due to ongoing MG treatment, immunization is still recommended.
- Should you have personal concerns drug allergies or other severe allergies or conditions that concern you, the MAC asks that you please consult with your doctor for a detailed risk-and-benefit discussion before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

In the future, we may have better validated antibody tests that help us determine who is protected and who could benefit from a booster shot. The above statement may change as other COVID-19 vaccines get introduced.

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*The medical advisory committee of the MGA is committed to supporting patients with myasthenia gravis. The following members of the committee have reviewed and approved this document:*

*Dr. Richard Barohn, Dr. Mazen Dimachkie, Dr. Constantine Farmakidis, Dr. Vernita Hairston, and Dr. Mamatha Pasnoor*