

Wyoming Medical Society Policy Position Statement – October 24, 2021 Vaccination Importance

The Wyoming Medical Society (WMS) remains a champion of the widespread use of safe and effective vaccines. We fully support the overwhelming scientific evidence showing vaccines to be safe interventions to both prevent individual illness and protect the health of the public. In the 20th century, vaccines of many different types have played a role in decreasing the spread of disease. The eradication of smallpox is the best example of the effectiveness of vaccines.

The available COVID19 vaccinations have been proven safe and effective at preventing infections, and decreasing hospitalizations and deaths.

WMS does not support policy efforts to broaden or strengthen nonmedical exemptions from immunization. WMS stands in solidarity with the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and countless others in this position.

Our organization is deeply concerned that disinformation and politicization of health issues are eroding public confidence in science and undermining trust in physicians and medical institutions. WMS will continue to adamantly defend science and evidence while working to provide Wyoming citizens with medical information based on current scientific evidence.

Background:

At the 2020 Special Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates physicians amended the ethical guidance to clarify that physicians who are not immunized from a vaccine-preventable disease have an ethical responsibility to take appropriate actions to protect patients and colleagues. The AMA Code of Medical Ethics has long maintained that physicians have a strong ethical duty to accept immunizations when a safe, effective vaccine is available. This is especially true when a highly transmissible disease poses significant risks to patients and colleagues.

Language used in this WMS Board-approved statement is taken in part from the [AMA Covid-19 Guide](#).