

## For the Patient

The full report is titled “The War on Infectious Diseases: COVID-19 Vaccines and the Public: Challenges and Solutions.” It is in the January 2021 issue of *Allergy Asthma Proceedings* (volume 42, pages 5–7). The authors are Joseph A. Bellanti and Russell A. Settipane.

*For the Patient* is provided to physicians so that the patients can better understand the language of modern medicine.

*For the Patient* is written by the editors (Bellanti, JA and Settipane, RA) and provided to practitioners so that patients can better understand the usefulness of new information resulting from medical research.

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### COVID-19 VACCINES AND THE PUBLIC: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

In a special editorial of this issue of the *Proceedings*, the editors, by using a military metaphor, write about the war against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) that the United States and the world are engaged in and the important role the public will play in ending it by receiving the soon to be available COVID-19 vaccines. As major participants as warriors in this battle, the public’s participation in mass immunization will not only be of key benefit to themselves but will also protect other members of the public, even those not yet immunized against COVID-19. To achieve this goal, sufficient numbers of the public need to be immunized for the development of enough herd immunity to provide a protective wall of immunity to defeat this brutal enemy. To ensure that sufficient numbers are immunized, the public needs to be assured and have confidence in both the safety and effectiveness of these vaccines. Unfortunately, recent polls indicate that the share of Americans who say that they would get vaccinated against the coronavirus has declined sharply since earlier this year. Although some polls indicate that approximately half of U.S. adults (51%) would definitely or probably be willing to receive a vaccine nearly as many (49%) say they definitely or probably would not due to uncertainty about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

#### Why Did the Researchers Do This Particular Study?

The study was carried out to address certain concerns related to COVID-19 vaccine acceptance by the public and to offer solutions to address these.

#### Who or What Was Studied?

Attitudes of the public with concern about COVID-19 vaccines.

#### How Was the Study Done?

A review of the literature and the authors’ professional and personal experiences.

#### What Were the Limitations of the Study

There still remain some unanswered questions, the most important of which is: will enough Americans be well equipped with the best information to make informed decisions for themselves and their families to receive the vaccine?

#### What Are the Implications of the Study?

The authors describe current efforts being conducted to address these public concerns and suggest a national mobilization between the public and the professional societies, pharma, and policy makers to provide better communication for the public to receive the best information related to COVID-19 immunization. In the meantime, until the vaccines are received, the public should adhere to the current guidelines for disease prevention: handwashing, mask wearing, and social distancing. □