

Westberg Institute Statement Regarding Faith Community Nurses and COVID-19 Vaccinations

As production of the COVID vaccine increases, faith community nurses (FCNs) should educate the public on the importance and safety of the vaccine to promote high participation. FCNs may also volunteer to administer the vaccine. FCNs who provide vaccinations must have the knowledge and skill, to administer vaccinations. It is highly recommended that FCNs who provide vaccinations attend training for administering the COVID-19 vaccine!

Recommendations for all FCNs performing COVID-19 vaccine administration:

- Current unrestricted license
- Malpractice insurance
- Competence in the informed consent process, COVID-19 vaccine administration, vaccine reconstitution, storage requirements, side effects, emergency management of adverse reactions, record-keeping, waste and disposal and all other aspects of vaccine administration outlined in The COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Operational Guidance for Jurisdictions Playbook located at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/covid19-vaccination-guidance.html>.

Many rural areas of the country have a significant shortage of nurses, while highly populated areas may not have an adequate number of nurses necessary to accommodate the volume of vaccine recipients. FCNs can assist to fill in the gaps. FCNs may offer to host a vaccine clinic in their faith communities by contacting the State/local Health Department. Research has shown that higher vaccination rates were achieved when onsite vaccinations were offered in communities of faith.

Visit CDC-INFO <https://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/index.html> or CALL 18002324636.

Additional Reference Information

All nursing practices fall under the legal authority of each State's Nurse Practice Acts and State Board of Nursing Policies. Scope and Standards of Practice documents reflect the thinking of the nursing profession and provide guidance for nurses in the application of their professional skills and responsibilities. It is up to the FCN to assess one's skills, knowledge, and comfort in following any medical orders. Additionally, an employer or setting of practice may limit the scope of practice for the FCN. It is recommended that every FCN have malpractice insurance. The Foundation of Faith Community Nursing Course (Legal and Documentation modules) offers information and recommendations regarding practice responsibilities in both the Legal and Documentation module.

1. *All nursing practice is guided by the Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice. Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice (American Nurses Association, 2015).*
2. *Faith Community Nursing practice is also guided by the specialty scope and standards of practice: Faith Community Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice (American Nurses Association & Health Ministry Association, 2017).*

Daniels, N.A., Juarbe, T., et al (2007) Effectiveness of Adult Vaccination Programs in faith-based Organizations. *Ethnicity and Disease*, 17(1). S1.

Excerpt from *Westberg Institute Position Paper: Faith Community Nursing (FCN): Direct Care or "Hands-on" Practice and Glucose Testing*