



Make today a breakthrough.

January 2021

Dear Provider or Local Health Official,

As the leading national organization that represents individuals and families with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a rare neuromuscular disease, **Cure SMA asks that you provide priority access to COVID-19 vaccines to individuals with SMA, as well as their families and in-home healthcare workers.**

[Federal guidelines](#) for COVID-19 vaccine distribution recommended that individuals with medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 receive priority access to COVID-19 vaccines through Phase 1c. Individuals with SMA represent a high-risk population for serious illness from COVID-19 and should receive immediate priority access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Neuromuscular and respiratory muscle weakness associated with SMA, which can be exacerbated by viral illness such as COVID-19, can progress to pneumonia, respiratory failure, and death. Individuals with SMA may also be in regular contact with in-home health aides or personal care workers, further increasing their COVID-19 exposure. Cure SMA recommends that priority access to COVID-19 vaccines also be given to essential in-home healthcare workers, including family members, of individuals with SMA.

Individuals with SMA should be among the first to receive priority access to a COVID-19 vaccine given their underlying health conditions may put them at greater risk for serious illness and complications.

Thank you for your support of individuals with SMA and their caregivers as you continue the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K.A. Hobby".

Kenneth Hobby
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Schroth".

Mary Schroth, M.D.
Chief Medical Director