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21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

As you may know the WPA's Advisory Committee on Responses to Emergencies (ACRE) has been meeting regularly during the COVID-19 crisis. At our recent meeting in January the Committee suggested that Member Societies might wish to approach their respective governments about the need for persons with Severe Mental Illnesses (SMIs) to be considered for priority in vaccination programmes. Several Member Societies are already in the process of doing this.

If you do decide to write to your respective authorities about the vaccination programme, you may find it useful to attach a copy of the WPA letter, attached to this email, which emphasises the international approach to this issue. I also attach the Position Statement approved at the WPA General Assembly in October on health care for people with mental illness during the current COVID pandemic.

It would be very helpful to know the outcome if you do approach your government.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Dr Afzal Javed



President  
World Psychiatric Association