

Statement of Gary A. Koretzky, M.D., Ph.D.,

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The American Association of Immunologists (AAI)\* urges all Americans to get fully vaccinated,\*\* and once eligible, to receive a booster shot against COVID-19. Vaccination significantly reduces your chance of being hospitalized for, or dying from, COVID-19, and will help protect the lives and health of your family, friends, and community. As immunologists and other scientists work to understand the threat of new variants, including omicron, our existing vaccines remain our best – and an extraordinarily effective – tool against a disease that has already claimed the lives of more than 782,000 Americans and more than 5.2 million people globally.

<sup>\*</sup>AAI (www.aai.org) is the nation's largest professional association of research scientists and physicians who study the immune system.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Currently, the <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</u> considers people fully vaccinated "2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine."