

# ROTARY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH COVID-19 VACCINATION

By Governor Jimmie Gorski

As your District Governor, I often receive important emails from RI leaders which I share with you through your club presidents and Area Governors. Recently I received the following letter from RI President Holger Knaack and The Rotary Foundation Chair K.R. Ravindran.

A number of you have asked what Rotary's role will be with Covid-19 vaccination now that authorities have reported the long-awaited vaccine will soon become available. The letter answers this question and asks us as Rotarians to continue our important work to eradicate polio as we struggle against a global pandemic.

Yours in Rotary,

DG Jimmie Gorski

Dear District Governors,

In these difficult days, we are so heartened to receive such uplifting reports on the unrelenting efforts of our Rotary members who have responded in their communities against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, the single question we hear time and again as we traverse the virtual world is, "Are we getting involved with COVID vaccination?" Considering the success and expertise we have gained in our polio eradication effort, this question is both natural and timely.

The answer is yes. We will have an important role in the months ahead.

This does not mean we will deviate in any way from our avowed commitment to eradicating polio, which remains our highest priority and will continue to be our only corporate program. Polio vaccinations and surveillance activities must continue unabated, as must our effort to raise \$50 million per year for this effort.

But as we know, there is a pandemic sweeping the world. The Board of RI

and the Trustees of our Foundation met in joint session and have agreed that we have a role to play.

We ask you, then, to encourage your clubs to:

Utilize Rotary's knowledge of vaccine safety and efficacy based on our polio eradication experience to conduct vaccination education and communication outreach in your communities. This will need to be tailored to local contexts to address unique cultural and regional needs. Your leadership will be critical in crafting the appropriate messages and strategies.

Engage, where appropriate, with our current polio eradication partners WHO and UNICEF at the country level to offer Rotary's support to COVID-19 response activities, including vaccination efforts.

Partner at the local level with governments, corporations, and foundations to support Rotary activities at the country level.

Through hundreds of global grants and projects, Rotary members have demonstrated what we can accomplish to raise awareness, deliver critical personal protection equipment, and provide support for frontline health workers. As you learn of work being done in your area, please encourage clubs to add to the more than 3,000 projects already registered on [Rotary Showcase](#) (please log in to My Rotary first, and navigate to Rotary Showcase). We would like to know about them.

We have one final call to action: Help us combat the powerful, growing force of vaccine resistance and misinformation. Our advocacy in our communities will be critical — we need to spread the message about the power of vaccines to save lives.

Working together, we have done so much to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, to care for our communities, and to prepare Rotarians for the work ahead.

We do this for ourselves and for future generations. We do this as part of our obligation to support our world as it faces the most significant challenge of this generation.

Thank you.

Holger Knaack  
K.R. Ravindran

President, Rotary International  
Chair, The Rotary Foundation

## THE ROTARY FOUNDATION RECEIVES HIGHEST RATING

By Rotary International

For the 13th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating — four stars — from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Only one percent of the organizations Charity Navigator evaluates have received 13 consecutive 4-star evaluations.

"Your achievement and 4-star rating will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts," says Michael Thatcher, president and chief executive officer of Charity Navigator. "This exceptional designation sets the Foundation apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."

The rating reflects Charity Navigator's assessment of how the Foundation uses donations, sustains its programs and services, and practices good governance and openness.