

**CONTACT: Sue Brooks**  
**Communications Manager**  
**(digital photo available)**

## **“The Importance of Vaccines for Older Adults,” Oct. 5**

*Webinar delves into the need for other regular immunizations*



**TRENTON, NJ (Sept. 30)** – The past several months have indicated how crucial it is to have older adults vaccinated for COVID. Other immunizations, tailored for adults 50 and over, also remain vital: they can prevent or reduce the severity of illness for the annual flu, prevent pneumonia and help avoid the painful effects of shingles, among others.

While regular appointments and vaccine schedules may have been disrupted in the past 18 months, people should understand what vaccines they need, when to get them and how to ask their doctor if they are up-to-date on them.

“The Importance of Vaccines for Older Adults,” the latest webinar in NJAAW’s Parker Health Group, Inc.-sponsored series, will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 1 p.m. ET. Addressing this topic will be NJAAW Board member Dr. Vikranta Sharma (pictured), Medical Director of Hospice and Palliative Care at VNA Health Group, and Medical Director of Palliative Care at CentraState Healthcare System. A Q&A will follow. Advanced registration is required; [register here](#).

“We have seen very high rates of COVID vaccinations among adults age 60+,” said NJAAW’s Executive Director Cathy Rowe, DrPH. “Over 90% of adults ages 60 to 75 have had at least one dose, with some communities achieving a full vaccination rate of more than 95%.

“Older adults remember growing up before many of the vaccines we take regularly were available. They have firsthand accounts of how some illnesses we rarely see could ravage a community and have a permanent impact on its victims. It is not surprising that they embraced the COVID vaccine,” Dr. Rowe said.

Last year, shortly before COVID became a household word in NJ, Dr. Rowe produced a documentary about vaccines while working at SOMA Two Towns for All Ages, the age-friendly initiative of South Orange and Maplewood. In “A Time Before Vaccines,” residents from both towns – doctors and nurses among them – shared their stories with her. The documentary can be viewed [here on YouTube](#).

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**About Parker Health Group, Inc.**

[Parker Health Group, Inc.](#) is a nonprofit, New Jersey-based aging services organization with over 114 years' experience that is committed to empowering older Americans. Since 1907, Parker has been challenging, changing and expanding the idea of what it means to grow older in America and how all of us can make aging part of life.

**About NJAAW**

NJ Advocates for Aging Well (NJAAW, [njaaw.org](http://njaaw.org)), formerly NJ Foundation for Aging, has been at the forefront of revolutionizing the aging experience since 1998. It is the only statewide nonprofit focused solely on providing leadership in public policy and education to enable older adults to live with independence and dignity in their communities. NJAAW's social action issues include senior housing and hunger, elder economic security, older workers and transportation. The award-winning Aging Insights, a monthly topical TV program produced by NJAAW, connects caregivers, older adults and their families to community-based services and resources. The show is available on [NJAAW's YouTube channel](#), [website](#) and more than 70 public-access stations across NJ (check local listings for channels and times). NJAAW also presents educational forums and an Annual Conference offering development opportunities and best practices for professionals entrusted with caring for aging adults.