

COVID 19 VACCINE INFORMATION

WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED?

- To protect myself and my family
- Keep my residents safe
- Help stop spread in the community

WHAT ARE TWO TYPES OF COVID-19 VACCINES?

- Pfizer (BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)
- both of them DO NOT contain COVID-19 Virus, **our facility is going to use Pfizer Vaccine.**

COVID-19 VACCINE IS MRNA VACCINE, WHAT IS THAT?

- mRNA technology is new vaccine production but is already being used in cancer treatment. It has been studied for more than ten years.
- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a **HARMLESS PIECE** that looks like the “spike protein”. The spike protein is found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus.
- Our bodies recognize that this protein should not be there, so they build antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that cause COVID-19 if we are infected in the future.

CAN mRNA VACCINE GIVE ME COVID-19?

- NO.

CAN mRNA VACCINE CHANGE MY DNA?

- NO.

WHO WAS INCLUDED IN THE COVID -19 VACCINE TRIALS?

- Pfizer (BNT162b2) = Over 40,000 people with 30% racially diversity, 10% black, 13% Hispanic in which 45% were 56-85 years of age.

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES?

- Pfizer (BNT162b2) = 95% protection against disease

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I GET THE VACCINE?

- The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19
- You can expect to have a short-term discomfort such as: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and pain at the injection site after vaccination.
- These reactions will last for 24-48 hours and are typically more pronounced after the second dose.

- Side effects mean your body is doing its job and making antibodies (**IT IS A GOOD THING**).
- These side effects are normal, common and expected.
- **YOU MUST GET THE SECOND DOSE** because the vaccine will not protect you if only get the one dose.
- It is important to get the **SAME VACCINE** as the first dose.

ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE?

- Safety is the most important priority in vaccine approval.
- Most side effects occur within 6 weeks of vaccination. To be more cautious, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) requires 8 weeks of safely monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccines.
- To assess safety FDA typically advises that a minimum of 3,000 participants are included in the trial, the current COVID-19 vaccine trials include 30,000 to 50,000 participants.

WHY SHOULD WE TRUST COVID-19 VACCINE?

- The FDA is using the same strict standard that has for decades
- No steps are “skipped”
- Two independent advisory committees are reviewing the results, members and experts of these committees have no conflict of interest and are not associated with any vaccine manufacturers.
 - The Vaccine Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (**VRBPAC**) that advises the FDA
 - The advisory Committee on Immunization practices (**ACIP**) that advises the CDC

WHAT IS EUA AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- An EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION (EUA) for vaccine is based on the need to use a vaccine quickly to save lives during a public health emergency.
- EUA is a shorter process but **no steps are skipped in the safety evaluation process**
- A EUA does NOT imply that authorization was done too quickly or that the vaccine is not safe.

HOW WAS VACCINE DEVELOPED QUICKLY?

Major reasons we are able to get these vaccines developed more quickly than usual include:

- Global effort with the world’s leading scientist focused on a single task.
- Nearly unlimited resources (money, knowledge, manpower, technology).
- A large pool of diverse adult volunteer trial participants.

WHEN AND HOW LONG WILL I BE PROTECTED BY THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- Most of the vaccines are 2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart
- Protection occurs 1-2 weeks after the second dose
- We will most likely not know how long the vaccine will be protective once we receive it. We will know more as more time passes in the current research
- May need to have a vaccine shots for COVID-19 on a regular basis (like the flue shot)

WILL I STILL NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

- **YES**, similar to other vaccines, a large number of people in the community will need to get vaccinated before transmission drops enough to stop the use of masks.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAD COVID-19?

- It is safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you have had COVID-19
- Even if you have had COVID-19, it is important to get vaccinated. It could give you longer or better protection against the disease
- Even if you have positive antibodies, you should get the COVID-19 vaccine.

WHERE SHOULD I LOOK TO GET MORE INFORMATION?

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/answering-questions.html>
- CDC: About COVID-19 vaccines : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines.html>
- CDC: Provider Resources for COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations with patients and answering patients Question : <https://cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations>