

Things you should know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program According to the CDC

1. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.
 - mRNA vaccines like the ones to prevent COVID-19 have been in development for over 10 years.
 - Vaccines were designed to:
 - Decrease death and serious disease as much as possible
 - Preserve functioning of society
 - Reduce the extra burden COVID-19 is having on people already facing disparities
 - Reporting of adverse effects is required
 - V-safe is available (smartphone-based after vaccination health checker for those who are vaccinated)
 - Post vaccination monitoring is required
2. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed.
 - The COVID-19 vaccine is a safer way to help build protection
 - The COVID-19 vaccine will not give you COVID-19
 - The COVID-19 vaccine will not cause you to test positive for COVID-19 viral tests
 - People who have been sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated
 - Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19
 - The COVID-19 mRNA vaccine will not alter your DNA
3. CDC is making recommendations for who should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine first when supplies are limited.
 - 1a) Health Care Personnel and Long-term Care Facility Residents
 - 1b) Frontline Essential Workers (fire fighters, police officers, correction officers, food and agricultural workers, U.S. Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers and the educational sector)
 - 1c) People aged 65-74 years, people aged 16-64 with underlying medical conditions and other essential workers
4. There is a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S., but supply will increase in the weeks and months to come.
5. After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.
 - Arm of shot – pain and swelling (apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area and exercise your arm)
 - Throughout the rest of your body – fever, chills, tiredness and headache (drink plenty of fluids and dress lightly)
 - Side effects to tell your doctor about are: redness or tenderness that increases where you got the shot AFTER 24-hours and side effects that don't go away after a few days
 - Some other side effects may include flu like symptoms that should go away within a few days
6. Cost is not an obstacle – vaccine paid for with taxpayer dollars and will be given to the American people at no cost.
7. The first COVID-19 vaccines are being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Other vaccines are being developed and tested.
8. COVID-19 vaccines are one of the many important tools to help us stop the pandemic. Other tools are:
 - Social distancing, wearing a protective mask when around others, avoid crowds and wash your hands frequently. These should not be stopped because of the vaccine.

Vaccine Comparisons		
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna
Type	mRNA	mRNA
Number of Shots	(2) – 21 days apart	(2) – 28 days apart
How Given	shot in the muscle of upper arm	shot in the muscle of upper arm
Does not contain	eggs, preservatives or latex	eggs, preservatives or latex
Who should be vaccinated	16 and older	18 and older
Who should not be vaccinated	prior history of anaphylaxis to any Pfizer vaccine	prior history of anaphylaxis to any Moderna vaccine
Side effects	pain, swelling, redness, chills, tiredness, headache	pain, swelling, redness, chills, tiredness, headache
Effectiveness	95%	94.1%

This and additional information about COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccines can be found on the CDC's website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

As of 12.30.2020