

COVID-19 VACCINE

- Ohio is prepared to distribute safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines statewide with two clear goals: To save lives and slow the spread of the virus.
- The COVID-19 vaccine development process included several steps comparable with those used to develop earlier vaccines, such as the flu or measles vaccine. The FDA and independent medical experts have ensured that these vaccines are thoroughly and rigorously evaluated.
- Initially, there will be a limited number of vaccines available. Ohio is committed to making the vaccine widely available for those who want to receive it as quickly as possible as shipments arrive. Ohio has identified the critical audiences that will be among the first to receive those very early shipments in phases, should they choose to be vaccinated.
- The vaccine has been shown to decrease the severity of illness in people who catch this virus. Having a significant portion of Ohioans vaccinated will help us prevent serious hospitalizations and death. Receiving both doses of the vaccine is critical to its effectiveness.
- Using all the tools available to help prevent the spread of the virus continues to be critical until a substantial number of Ohioans can be vaccinated. Continuing to wear masks and social distance will reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus. Proper prevention measures, coupled with the vaccine, will provide the best protection from COVID-19.

CONTENTS:

[How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine safety](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine side effects](#)

[Cost of COVID-19 vaccine](#)

[Information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Information about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Phases for distribution](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine sites](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine “waiting lists”](#)

[CONTACT INFORMATION RELATED TO THE COVID-19 VACCINE](#)

[FAQS:](#)

Why is a COVID-19 vaccine needed if social distancing and wearing masks prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading?

If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available?

Can other vaccines help prevent me from getting COVID-19?

How many COVID-19 vaccines are under development?

How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be needed? When is the second dose due?

Will Ohio make COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

Will there be enough vaccine for everyone in Ohio?

How many vaccines are available?

I am not in one of the audiences that has been announced. When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

What is the difference between an emergency use authorization (EUA) and an approval from the FDA?

Will my children be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

What is Operation Warp Speed?

All info from:

Nepali Vaccine Toolkit: <https://odh.ohio.gov/static/covid19/vaccine-providers/covid-19-vaccine-communications-toolkit-preliminary-ne.pdf>

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

ODH <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program>

Summit CO <https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/coronavirus/2020/12/29/summit-county-public-health-creates-covid-19-vaccine-registry/4066291001/>

Stark CO <https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/coronavirus-updates#:~:text=The%20Stark%20County%20Health%20Department%20does%20not%20provide%20sick%20care,to%20our%20communicable%20disease%20staff.>

Portage CO <https://www.portagecounty-oh.gov/portage-county-health-district/contact-tracing-isolation-quarantine-vaccine-information/pages>

Wayne CO <https://www.wayne-health.org/coronavirus>

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) & National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) unless otherwise noted

How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

To understand how COVID-19 vaccines work, it helps to first look at how our bodies fight illness. When germs, such as the virus that causes COVID-19, invade our bodies, they attack and multiply. This invasion, called an infection, is what causes illness. Our immune system uses several tools to fight infection. Blood contains red cells, which carry oxygen to tissues and organs, and white or immune cells, which fight infection. Different types of white blood cells fight infection in different ways:

- **Macrophages** are white blood cells that swallow up and digest germs and dead or dying cells. The macrophages leave behind parts of the invading germs called antigens. The body identifies antigens as dangerous and stimulates antibodies to attack them.
- **B-lymphocytes** are defensive white blood cells. They produce antibodies that attack the pieces of the virus left behind by the macrophages.
- **T-lymphocytes** are another type of defensive white blood cell. They attack cells in the body that have already been infected.

The first time a person is infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, it can take several days or weeks for their body to make and use all the germ-fighting tools needed to get over the infection. After the infection, the person's immune system remembers what it learned about how to protect the body against that disease.

The body keeps a few T-lymphocytes, called memory cells, that go into action quickly if the body encounters the same virus again. When the familiar antigens are detected, B-lymphocytes produce antibodies to attack them. Experts are still learning how long these memory cells protect a person against the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. Different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection, but with all types of vaccines, the body is left with a supply of "memory" T-lymphocytes as well as B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus in the future.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to produce T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes after vaccination. Therefore, it is possible that a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

Sometimes after vaccination, the process of building immunity can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.

Currently, there are three main types of COVID-19 vaccines that are or soon will be undergoing large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in the United States. Below is a description of how each type of vaccine prompts our bodies to recognize and protect us from the virus that causes COVID-19. None of these vaccines can give you COVID-19.

- **mRNA vaccines** contain material from the virus that causes COVID-19 that gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus. After our cells make copies of the protein, they destroy the genetic material from the vaccine. Our bodies recognize that the protein should not be there and build T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future.
- **Protein subunit vaccines** include harmless pieces (proteins) of the virus that cause COVID-19 instead of the entire germ. Once vaccinated, our immune system recognizes that the proteins don't belong in the body and begins making T-lymphocytes and antibodies. If we are ever infected in the future, memory cells will recognize and fight the virus.
- **Vector vaccines** contain a weakened version of a live virus—a different virus than the one that causes COVID-19—that has genetic material from the virus that causes COVID-19 inserted in it (this is called a viral vector). Once the viral vector is inside our cells, the genetic material gives cells instructions to make a protein that is unique to the virus that causes COVID-19. Using these instructions, our cells make copies of the protein. This prompts our bodies to build T-lymphocytes and B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus if we are infected in the future.

All but one of the COVID-19 vaccines that are currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States use two shots. The first shot starts building protection. A second shot a few weeks later is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer. One vaccine in Phase 3 clinical trials only needs one shot.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a **harmless piece** of what is called the “spike protein.” The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are given in the upper arm muscle. Once the instructions (mRNA) are inside the immune cells, the cells use them to make the protein piece. After the protein piece is made, the cell breaks down the instructions and gets rid of them.

Next, the cell displays the protein piece on its surface. Our immune systems recognize that the protein doesn't belong there and begin building an immune response and making antibodies, like what happens in natural infection against COVID-19.

At the end of the process, our bodies have learned how to protect against future infection. The benefit of mRNA vaccines, like all vaccines, is those vaccinated gain this protection without ever having to risk the serious consequences of getting sick with COVID-19.

*****mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept, so the vaccine does not affect or interact with our DNA in any way. The cell breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using the instructions.**

COVID-19 vaccine safety

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Safety is a top priority while federal partners work to make a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine(s) available. Clinical trials study the effectiveness of the vaccine in thousands of study participants. Data from these trials will be provided to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine vaccine safety and effectiveness. The FDA uses rigorous standards during the evaluation, and if it determines that a vaccine meets its safety and effectiveness requirements, it can make these available by approval or emergency use authorization. After FDA makes its determination, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will review available data before making final vaccine recommendations to the CDC. There have been no shortcuts in the vaccine development process. The COVID-19 vaccine development process involved several steps comparable with those used to develop other vaccines, such as the flu or measles vaccine. (Ohio Dept. of Health; ODH)

The CDC has enacted several safety monitoring processes for people who receive the vaccines, detailed on their website.

Some conditions were not included in the clinical trials, or were included with inconclusive data. If you have an underlying conditioned, weakened immune system, or other unique health concerns, be sure to check with your doctor or healthcare provider to make sure the vaccine is right for you.

COVID-19 vaccine side effects

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.

- The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. COMMON side effects include pain and swelling near the injection site. You may also experience fever, chills, tiredness, and headache. You should call your doctor or healthcare provider if redness and tenderness increases after 24 hours or if your side effects don't resolve in a few days. Call 911 if you begin to have a severe allergic reaction. Side effects may feel like flu and even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

- With most COVID-19 vaccines, you will need 2 shots in order for them to work. Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first shot, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get a second shot.
- It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until a week or two after your second shot.

CDC has learned of reports that some people have experienced severe allergic reactions—also known as anaphylaxis—after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. As an example, an allergic reaction is considered severe when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or EpiPen[®] or if they must go to the hospital. If you have ever had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient in a COVID-19 vaccine, CDC recommends that you should not get that specific vaccine. If you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies, you should ask your doctor if you should get a COVID-19 vaccine. Your doctor will help you decide if it is safe for you to get vaccinated.

CDC recommends that people with a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications—such as allergies to food, pet, venom, environmental, or latex—may still get vaccinated. People with a history of allergies to oral medications or a family history of severe allergic reactions, or who might have a milder allergy to vaccines (no anaphylaxis)—may also still get vaccinated.

If you have a severe allergic reaction after getting the first shot, you should not get the second shot. Your doctor may refer you to a specialist in allergies and immunology to provide more care or advice.

Cost of COVID-19 vaccine

The federal government is committed to providing free or low-cost COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine doses purchased with taxpayer dollars will be given to Ohioans who choose to receive them at no cost. (Ohio Dept. of Health; ODH)

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot to someone. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

Information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

BNT162b2 manufactured by Pfizer, Inc., and BioNTech

Type of vaccine: mRNA

2 shots, 21 days apart, administered to the muscle of the upper arm

Does not contain: Eggs, Preservatives, Latex

- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is recommended for people aged 16 years and older.

- If you have had a severe allergic reaction—also known as anaphylaxis—to any ingredient in the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, you should not get vaccinated.*

*If you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies, ask your doctor if you should get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Your doctor will help you decide if it is safe for you to get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

Side effects and safety information: Most common side effects include pain/swelling/redness at injection site and chills/tiredness/headache.

These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. They might feel like flu symptoms and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Summary of safety data

- In clinical trials, reactogenicity symptoms (side effects that happen within 7 days of getting vaccinated) were common but were mostly mild to moderate.
- Side effects (such as fever, chills, tiredness, and headache) throughout the body were more common after the second dose of the vaccine.
- Most side effects were mild to moderate. However, a small number of people had severe side effects—defined as side effects affecting a person’s ability to do daily activities.
- Although few people in the clinical trials went to the hospital or died, data suggest that people who got the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine were less likely to have these more serious outcomes compared to people who got the saline placebo.
- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more about the safety of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in real-world conditions.

Information on how well the vaccine works:

- Based on evidence from clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people without evidence of previous infection.
- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more about how well the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine works in real-world conditions.

Demographic information from clinical trials:

Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine included people from the following racial and ethnic categories:

- 81.9% White
- 26.2% Hispanic/Latino
- 9.8% African American
- 4.4% Asian
- <3% other races/ethnicities

Age and sex breakdown:

- 50.6% male
- 49.4% female
- 21.4% 65 years and older

The most frequent underlying medical conditions were obesity (35.1%), diabetes (8.4%), and pulmonary disease (7.8%).

Information about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

mRNA-1273 manufactured by ModernaTX, Inc.

Type of vaccine: mRNA

2 shots, one month (28 days) apart administered to the muscle of the upper arm

Does not contain: Eggs, Preservatives, Latex

- The Moderna vaccine is recommended for people aged 18 years and older.
- If you have had a severe allergic reaction—also known as anaphylaxis—to any ingredient in the Moderna vaccine, you should not get vaccinated.*

*If you have had a severe allergic reaction to other vaccines or injectable therapies, ask your doctor if you should get the Moderna vaccine. Your doctor will help you decide if it is safe for you to get the Moderna vaccine.

Side effects and safety information: Most common side effects include pain/swelling/redness at injection site and chills/tiredness/headache.

These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. They might feel like flu symptoms and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Summary of safety data

- In clinical trials, reactogenicity symptoms (side effects that happen within 7 days of getting vaccinated) were common but were mostly mild to moderate.
- Side effects (such as fever, chills, tiredness, and headache) throughout the body were more common after the second dose of the vaccine.
- Most side effects were mild to moderate. However, a small number of people had severe side effects that affected their ability to do daily activities.
- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more about the safety of the Moderna vaccine in real-world conditions. [L](#)

Information on how well the vaccine works

- Based on evidence from clinical trials, the Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people who received two doses who had no evidence of being previously infected.

- The vaccine appeared to have high effectiveness in clinical trials (efficacy) among people of diverse age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories and among persons with underlying medical conditions.
- Although few people in the clinical trials were admitted to the hospital, this happened less often in the people who got the Moderna vaccine compared to people who got the saline placebo.
- CDC will continue to provide updates as we learn more about how well the Moderna vaccine works in real-world conditions.

Demographic information from clinical trials:

Clinical trials for the Moderna vaccine included people from the following racial and ethnic categories:

- 79.4% White
- 20% Hispanic/Latino
- 9.7% African American
- 4.7% Asian
- <3% other races/ethnicities

Age and sex breakdown:

- 52.6% male
- 47.4% female
- 25.3% 65 years and older

Most people who participated in the trials (82%) were considered to have an occupational risk of exposure, with 25.4% of them being healthcare workers.

Among people who participated in the clinical trials, 22.3% had at least one high-risk condition, which included lung disease, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, liver disease, or HIV infection. Four percent (4%) of participants had two or more high-risk conditions.

Phases for distribution

Initially, there will be a limited number of vaccines available, and Ohio is committed to making it widely available for those that want to receive it, as quickly as possible, as shipments of vaccine arrive. In conjunction with the recommendations of medical experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASSEM), Ohio has identified who will be among the first to receive those very early shipments in Phase 1A, should they choose to be vaccinated, listed below.

- Healthcare workers and personnel who are routinely involved in the care of COVID-19 patients.

- Residents and staff in nursing homes.
- Residents and staff in assisted living facilities.
- Patients and staff at state psychiatric hospitals.
- People with developmental disabilities and those with mental health disorders, including substance use disorders, who live in group homes, residential facilities, or centers, and staff at those locations.
- Residents and staff at our two state-run homes for Ohio veterans.
- EMS responders.

The goals of Phase 1B are to save lives and to have students back in school full-time by March 1. This phase will specifically include:

- Ohioans age 65 and up.
- Younger people with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset medical disorders that make them particularly vulnerable – such as cerebral palsy; spina bifida; congenital heart disease; type 1 diabetes; inherited metabolic disorders; severe neurologic disorders including epilepsy; severe genetic disorders including Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Prader Willi Syndrome, Turner Syndrome; severe lung disease including cystic fibrosis and severe asthma; sickle cell anemia, alpha and beta thalassemia.
- Adults/employees in all schools that want to go back, or to remain, educating in person.

The vaccine distribution plan for future priority populations are still under development and will be shared publicly as soon as they are finalized. As more information becomes available on who can receive the vaccine, and when they can receive the vaccine, we will communicate this information publicly through the news media and share information at coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine.

The CDC has suggested Phase 1c, where:

- People aged 65—74 years because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19. People aged 65—74 years who are also residents of long-term care facilities should be offered vaccination in Phase 1a.
- People aged 16—64 years with underlying medical conditions which increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19.
- Other essential workers, such as people who work in transportation and logistics, food service, housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, public safety, and public health.

COVID-19 vaccine sites

If you choose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, you should receive a vaccination card or printout that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. You should receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you are being offered. Each authorized COVID-19

vaccine has its own fact sheet that contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of receiving that specific vaccine.

If you match the guidelines for one or more of the vaccination phases, you should contact your local or County Department of Public Health to fill out the appropriate forms and be placed on the appropriate informational lists. They may be able to notify you of when and where you can receive the vaccine, or assign a nursing team member to schedule a vaccination time (depending on their services).

Vaccines are administered by Absolute Pharmacy, CVS, PharmScript, and Walgreens in Ohio. They schedule vaccination clinics for prioritized groups and facilities in the phased approach. Local health departments and hospitals may also receive vaccines. Search for provider sites at: coronavirus.ohio.gov

Please note that COVID-19 testing sites could vary from COVID-19 vaccination sites.

For a complete list of pharmacies providing COVID-19 vaccines in Ohio or to search by zip code: vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov. If you have transportation available to assist, you can go outside of county as there are no restrictions on county residency.

Portage County- <https://www.portagecounty-oh.gov/portage-county-health-district/covid-19>

Stark County- Stark County Health Department: <https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/coronavirus-updates>

Massillon City Health Department-<https://massillonohio.gov/public-safety/health-department/>

Canton City Public Health-<http://cantonhealth.org/?pg=576>

Alliance City Health Department- Currently full

Summit County- <https://www.scph.org/covid/vaccine>

Wayne County- <https://www.wayne-health.org/coronavirus>

	Phone	Website	Other
Portage	(330) 296-9919 General Line	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbcjXbVoo7qHpzctC_GbqJ2UFBmLdqbgGFZUU18tV1ZL-iXBw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR3-wr3JQys9Flozz0x-W6RzeeUL9w1txuN-iK9rT80EcpCh-VfJm1Sb50Y	Online registration for more information.
Stark Co (Except Alliance, Canton, Massillon)	For all those 65 years of age or older and those with congenital and developmental disabilities can call (330) 353-9010 beginning Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 9 AM.	https://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/coronavirus-updates	PHONE REGISTRATION ONLY
Summit	Residents can call Summit County's COVID-19 Call Line (330) 926-5795	https://www.scph.org/covid/receive-information-regarding-covid-19-vaccine	Will be provider dependent on scheduling.
Wayne	(330) 264-9590 General Line	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgD8dKs0dh6Pd7fzLs7rBnLL-VwWe3EOEWJehIBPUBU69fPg/viewform	Online registration for more information only

COVID-19 vaccine “waiting lists”

From Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne County Departments of Public Health

County Departments of Public Health may have forms that you can fill out to be placed in the vaccination scheduling list, particularly if you are a member of an organization outlined in the phased vaccine distribution. For example, high-risk healthcare providers (HCPs) and residents and staff of congregate care facilities are prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1A. During Phase 1A, local health departments should coordinate vaccination of congregate care residents and staff at facilities not enrolled in the federal long-term care (LTC) pharmacy program or as providers themselves; and HCPs who are not otherwise vaccinated by hospitals or healthcare systems or not enrolled as providers themselves. Local health departments should seek to coordinate vaccination of both congregate care staff/residents and HCPs simultaneously within Phase 1A as logistical considerations allow.

You may also sign up for communication lists from your County Department of Public Health. They will send you information when they are ready to begin vaccinating your state designated priority group (this does not grant priority status to individuals within the state designated priority group).

County Departments of Public Health may offer vaccine registries. By filling out the appropriate forms to put yourself on this registry, it helps staff members reach you when they have a vaccine available for you. The registry will follow the phased vaccination approach, so you will not be prioritized on a first-come-first-serve basis. Adding your contact information to the registry will not reserve a vaccine. Most health departments aren't certain of how many doses they will be receiving and when, but will appreciate being able to contact you if they receive more information or have a vaccine available to offer you.

CONTACT INFORMATION RELATED TO THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Portage County Public Health: 330-296-9919

Stark County Public Health: 330-493-9904

Summit County Public Health: 330-926-5795

Wayne County Public Health: 330-264-9590

**Please note that some city departments may be receiving vaccines for their jurisdiction and therefore may have their own system based on target population groups and local health department guidelines.

COVID-19 CareLine for pandemic-related stress and anxiety (24/7 access): 1-800-720-9616

COVID-19 questions: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)

Aging and Disability Resource Center (Portage, Stark, Summit, Wayne): 877-770-5558

COVID-19 VACCINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

From Ohio Dept. of Health (ODH) & the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) unless otherwise noted

Q: Why is a COVID-19 vaccine needed if social distancing and wearing masks prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading?

A: Getting us through the pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines boost your immune system, so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus. Together, the coming COVID-19 vaccines and proper prevention measures will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Q: If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available?

A: Not enough is known about how long natural immunity lasts for those that have recovered from the virus. Until we have a vaccine available and know more about natural immunity to COVID-19, the CDC will not comment on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will make recommendations to CDC on who should get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Q: Can other vaccines help prevent me from getting COVID-19?

A: Other vaccines, such as those for flu, measles, or other diseases, will not protect you from COVID-19. Only the vaccines designed specifically to protect you from COVID-19, once approved for use by the FDA, can prevent COVID-19. While a flu vaccine will not prevent you from getting COVID-19, it can prevent you from getting influenza (flu) at the same time as COVID-19. Because the flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both be spreading during this time, getting a flu vaccine will be more crucial than ever.

Q: How many COVID-19 vaccines are under development?

A: Multiple COVID-19 vaccines are under development. As of Dec. 21, 2020, two vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) have been granted emergency use authorization (EUA) from the FDA. Large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials are in progress or being planned for additional COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

Q: How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be needed? When is the second dose due?

A: Both the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and the Moderna vaccine, which have been granted emergency use authorization, require two doses. Ohioans who receive a dose of a particular vaccine must receive a second dose of the vaccine from the same manufacturer, as they are not interchangeable. For example, if you receive a first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, your second dose must be the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine administered 21 days after the first dose. If you receive a first dose of the Moderna vaccine, your second dose must be the Moderna vaccine, administered 28 days after the first dose. These recommended intervals, with a standard four-day grace period, should be followed as closely as possible to receive full protection. If the intervals are exceeded, the second dose should be administered at the earliest opportunity. Doses would not need to be repeated due to a longer interval, meaning you do not have to start over, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. There is a vaccine in development and Phase 3 clinical trials that uses one dose.

Q: Will Ohio make COVID-19 vaccination mandatory?

A: No. The vaccine will be available, as supplies allow, to all Ohioans who choose to receive the vaccine.

Q: Will there be enough vaccine for everyone in Ohio?

A: During the early phases of administration of COVID-19 vaccines in the United States, supply will be limited. This would mean that not everyone will be able to be vaccinated right away, but, in time, as vaccination production ramps up, every Ohioan who chooses may receive a vaccine as soon as large quantities are available.

Q: How many vaccines are available?

A: Vaccine manufacturers are working hard to manufacture and distribute vaccines safely, quickly, and effectively. Each state will be informed, on a weekly basis, of how many vaccine doses they will receive that week.

Q: I am not in one of the audiences that has been announced. When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Initially, there will be a limited number of vaccines available, so we are committed to making it widely available for those that want to receive it as quickly as possible as shipments of the COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Ohio. Ohio continues to make plans for a way to distribute vaccines in a way that is fair, ethical, and transparent, in conjunction with the recommendations of medical experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). As more information becomes available on who can receive the vaccine when we will communicate this information publicly, including through the news media, and share information at coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine.

Q: What is the difference between an emergency use authorization (EUA) and an approval from the FDA?

A: An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authorizes the use of an unapproved medical product, or unapproved use of an approved medical product, for use during a public health emergency if the benefits of its use outweigh any known or potential risks. Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines have been granted EUA following rigorous review. In the past, EUAs have been issued for products, devices, and drugs related to Ebola, H1N1, Zika, and others. The EUAs are valid until the pandemic is over, the FDA revokes the EUAs, or the products are approved for traditional licensure by the FDA. The FDA closely monitors each vaccine for safety after the EUA is issued. Drug manufacturers are encouraged to obtain traditional FDA licensed vaccine approval as soon as possible.

Q: Will my children be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is currently recommended for patients age 16 and up, and the Moderna vaccine is currently recommended for patients age 18 and up. As more information becomes available on children and COVID-19 vaccines from the FDA, CDC, and vaccine manufacturers, it will be made available at coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine.

Q: What is Operation Warp Speed?

A: Operation Warp Speed is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense to help develop, produce, and distribute millions of vaccine doses for COVID-19 as quickly as possible while ensuring that vaccines are safe and effective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is focused on vaccine planning, working closely with the Ohio Department of Health and other state partners to prepare for vaccination availability. -Ohio Dept. of Health (ODH) & the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)