# COVID-19 VACCINE: ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

A PRESENTATION FOR STAFF AND RESIDENTS IN POST-ACUTE AND LONG-TERM CARE



# COVID-19 VACCINE HESITATION IS REAL

#### **Specific LTC staff concerns**

- "being first", "being a Guinea pig"
- Vaccine "being rushed"
- Safety (side effects)
- Not being represented in the vaccine trials

#### Other important factors

- How protective is the vaccine?
- How long does protection last?
- What is EUA (Emergency Use Authorization)?



#### WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED?

- Protect myself and my family
- Keep my residents safe
- Help stop spread in the community
- Set the example for others, including residents, families, co-workers, and the community-at-large

## COMMON QUESTIONS WE WILL ADDRESS:

- How do we know the vaccine is effective and safe?
- Why should we trust the vaccine?
- Is there new technology being used and is that dangerous to me?
- What is an EUA and what does that mean for me?
- When and how long will I be protected?
- Will I still need to wear a mask?
- What are the expected side effects?
- What if I've already had COVID-19?
- Where should I look to get accurate information?

# THE FIRST TWO COVID-19 VACCINES

#### Both are mRNA vaccines

- Pfizer (BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)

They Do NOT contain COVID-19 virus



#### mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

- mRNA technology is new in 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 causes 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)	Moderna (mRNA- 1273)
Number of people enrolled	Over 40,000	Over 25,000
Race and ethnicity of participants	Total 30% racially diverse 10% black, 13% Hispanic	37% racially diverse 10% black, 20% Hispanic/Latino
Older adults	45% were 56-85 years	23% were >65 years

<sup>•</sup> Notes: Courtesy of Dr. Anuj Mehta, Data is accurate as of 11/18/2020. More information is constantly becoming available. Sub-group comparisons (e.g. comparisons about efficacy between races or age groups) may be less accurate due to smaller numbers. Sub-group numbers for the Pfizer vaccine are given for US participants with international percentages in parentheses.

https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine

https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine

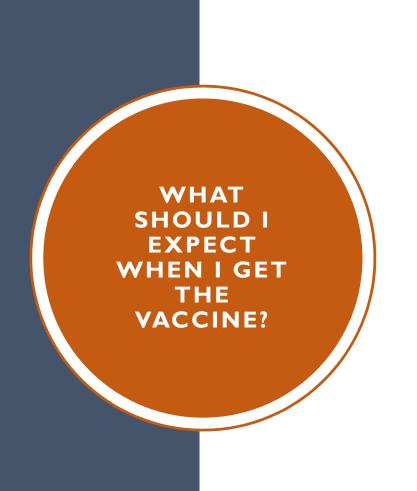
https://investors.modernatx.com/news-releases/news-release-details/modernas-covid-19-vaccine-candidate-meets-its-primary-efficacy

https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content\_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES?

	Pfizer (BNT162b2)	Moderna (mRNA-1273)
Efficacy Overall	95% protection against disease	94.1% protection against disease

Similar efficacy with different race, ethnicity and age



## THE VACCINE CANNOT GIVE YOU COVID-19!

- You can expect to have short-term discomfort: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and pain at 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 one dose
- It is important to get the SAMEVACCINE 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 safety monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccines
- Monitoring for safety will continue as the vaccine is distributed to the public
- 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 THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- The FDA is using the same strict standards that it 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 and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) that advises the FDA
  - 2. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that advises the CDC

- An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a 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
- The FDA will assess if the vaccine known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks
- Two separate advisory boards (VRBPAC and ACIP) will also review the data and make recommendations
- An EUA does NOT imply that the authorization was done too quickly or that the vaccine is not safe

WHAT IS AN EUA AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

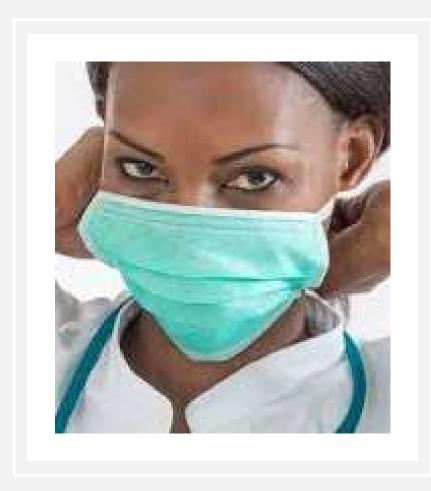
# HOW WAS THE VACCINE DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?

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

- Global effort with the world's leading scientists 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 I-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 vaccine shots for COVID-19 on a regular basis (like the flu 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

- 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

SPECIAL
CIRCUMSTANCE
WHAT IF I
ALREADY HAD
COVID-19?

# WHERE SHOULD I LOOK TO GET ACCURATE INFORMATION?

It is important to get information from <u>reliable sources</u> (CDC, AMDA, medical directors, providers) **Social media is full of misinformation and opinions based on that misinformation** 

#### Here are some link to information:

- CDC: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/answering-questions.html">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/answering-questions.html</a>
- CDC: About COVID-19 vaccines: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines.html</a>
- CDC: Provider Resources for COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations with Patients and Answering Patients' Questions: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/">https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/</a>

VACCINES ARE
THE ONLY WAY
TO CONTROL
THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC

 Everyone has to do their part and get vaccinated to get back to a normal life



### QUESTIONS?

