

**FAQs COVID-19 Vaccine  
December 10, 2020**

**Q: When will the vaccines be approved by the FDA?**

**A:** The FDA Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee is meeting today, December 10, 2020, to review the Pfizer data and vote on an emergency use approval (EUA).

**Q: How quickly will the vaccine work?**

**A:** Trials currently show 95% effectiveness about 7 days after second dose. The Pfizer vaccine requires 2 doses, 21 days apart, to get the maximum protection.

**Q: Will the pharmacy ensure there is enough vaccine for the second dose?**

**A:** Yes. The same brand of vaccine is required for the second dose and Consonus planning ensures we will have adequate doses of the Pfizer product to provide the second dose.

**Q: How does the vaccine work to build immunity?**

**A:** The vaccine uses mRNA that allows the vaccine recipient to build a response and memory to the protein and in turn build immunity.

**Q: Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?**

**A:** No! There is no coronavirus in the vaccine, and you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

**Q: Are there any adverse effects reported with the vaccines?**

**A:** The most common side effects are mild reactions that are normal and expected. These may include short-term discomfort that may include pain at injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and fever. These reactions will last for 24-48 hours and are typically more pronounced after the second dose. These reactions mean your body is doing its job and making antibodies.

**Q: Should my entire staff get vaccinated at the same time?**

**A:** The CDC will most likely recommend that facilities consider staggering vaccination of personnel from similar units or positions. This is a precautionary measure some facilities may consider as staff experience systemic symptoms post-vaccination. Consonus can advise facility leadership on considerations and logistics related to staggering staff vaccinations vs. doing all at once.

**Q: If a staff member does not get vaccinated during the initial vaccine clinic how can I assure they will get vaccinated?**

**A:** Consonus will be participating in three separate vaccine clinics at your community. Staff members that do not receive their first dose at the first clinic should receive their first dose at the second scheduled clinic.

**Q: Could vaccine side effects impact staff COVID-19 screening?**

**A:** Side effects could cause staff to fail COVID-19 screening. The facility may consider modifying screening or return to work criteria if the staff member has received the COVID-19 vaccine and is experiencing side effects such as muscle pain or fatigue. The CDC recognizes this challenge and will be publishing further guidance to assist.

**Q: Will the vaccine be mandated?**

**A:** No. Although it is not mandated, it is one of the most important steps we can take to ending this horrible pandemic. Education and transparency about the vaccine safety and effectiveness is essential to encouraging vaccination to protect our front-line healthcare workers and patients.

**Q: How long does the vaccine protection last?**

**A:** Over time the manufacturers will continue to study effectiveness. This will help with guide recommendations regarding need for booster, like the flu shot.

**Q: Is it recommended to get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you have had COVID-19?**

**A:** Yes. Although the data is limited, it does suggest that previously infected individuals can be at risk for COVID-19 reinfection and could benefit from vaccination to get longer or better protection from the virus.

**Q: Who should NOT get the vaccine?**

**A:** When we have the EUA Fact Sheet the guidance will be clear. The vaccine has not been studied in pregnant females, adolescents under 16 years old or immunocompromised patients so there is likelihood that it may not be recommended for certain subpopulations.

**Q: What about vaccinating short stay residents who will discharge before the next clinic?**

**A:** If the patient is at the facility the day of the vaccination clinic, they are eligible to receive the vaccine if they consent, regardless of discharge date. The patient will be given a reminder card with the date the next dose is due and they will have to return to the next facility clinic to receive. This is important as the distribution of the vaccine in phase 1a is not yet available at the physician's office. We recommend you have an open conversation with the patient to let them know they are eligible, but if they cannot come back to the facility in 21 days, they may want to opt out.

**Q: Do I need to get orders for the vaccine for my residents?**

**A:** The facility is not required to provide the pharmacy with an order to dispense the vaccine to residents or staff. However, it is recommended that the community work with provider to have a standing order on file for each resident.

**Q: Do we need a signed consent form?**

**A:** Yes. The pharmacy will provide a consent form for the facilities to send to residents and staff.

**Q: Who is responsible for paying for vaccination for residents and staff?**

**A:** The vaccine is FREE to all residents and staff regardless of insurance status