

DBP DR.'S DESK – COVID-19 VACCINATION

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The medical community expects a large increase in cases in the next few weeks. Mortality rate remains unchanged.

Updated CDC recommendation: Quarantine is shortened to 10 days (with or without a test). This can be reduced to 7 days if a person has a negative PCR or antigen test that was collected AFTER day 5 post-exposure.



VACCINE STATUS:

- It can be expected the FDA will approve emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine candidates. The FDA will meet Dec 10 to discuss Pfizer EUA application. If approved, initial shipments of the vaccine to states for distribution to prioritized groups could begin as soon as mid-December. Moderna's EUA application to the FDA was submitted Nov 30 and is scheduled for review on Dec 17.
- Supply will be limited at first, and federal guidance will help states prioritize who can get vaccinated first. It is anticipated initial distribution will go to high-risk populations such as healthcare workers and long-term care facilities. As more vaccines get approved and more vaccine doses are manufactured, the vaccine will be more widely available.
- The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority of the CDC. The current vaccine safety system is strong and robust with the capacity to effectively monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety. These systems are being scaled up to fully meet the needs of the nation. Additional systems and data sources are also being developed to further enhance safety monitoring capabilities.
- Limited COVID-19 vaccine doses may be available this year, but supply will increase substantially in 2021.
- At first, COVID-19 vaccines may not be authorized, approved, or recommended for children. However, as clinical trials continue to expand who is recruited to participate, the groups recommended to receive the vaccine will be expanded.
- All but one of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States need two doses to be effective. The other COVID-19 vaccine uses one dose. For those that require 2 doses, the second dose should be administered no sooner than 28 days and no later than 60 days after the first dose.
- Similar to the flu vaccine, recipient may experience mild symptoms.
- COVID-19 vaccine planning is very fluid and will be updated as new information becomes available.
- Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccine providers will be able to charge administration fees for giving or administering 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. We expect carriers to cover the full cost of administration of the vaccine.



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