COVID-19 VACCINE: ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

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

amda The Society For Post-Acute And Long-Term Care Medicine™

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:

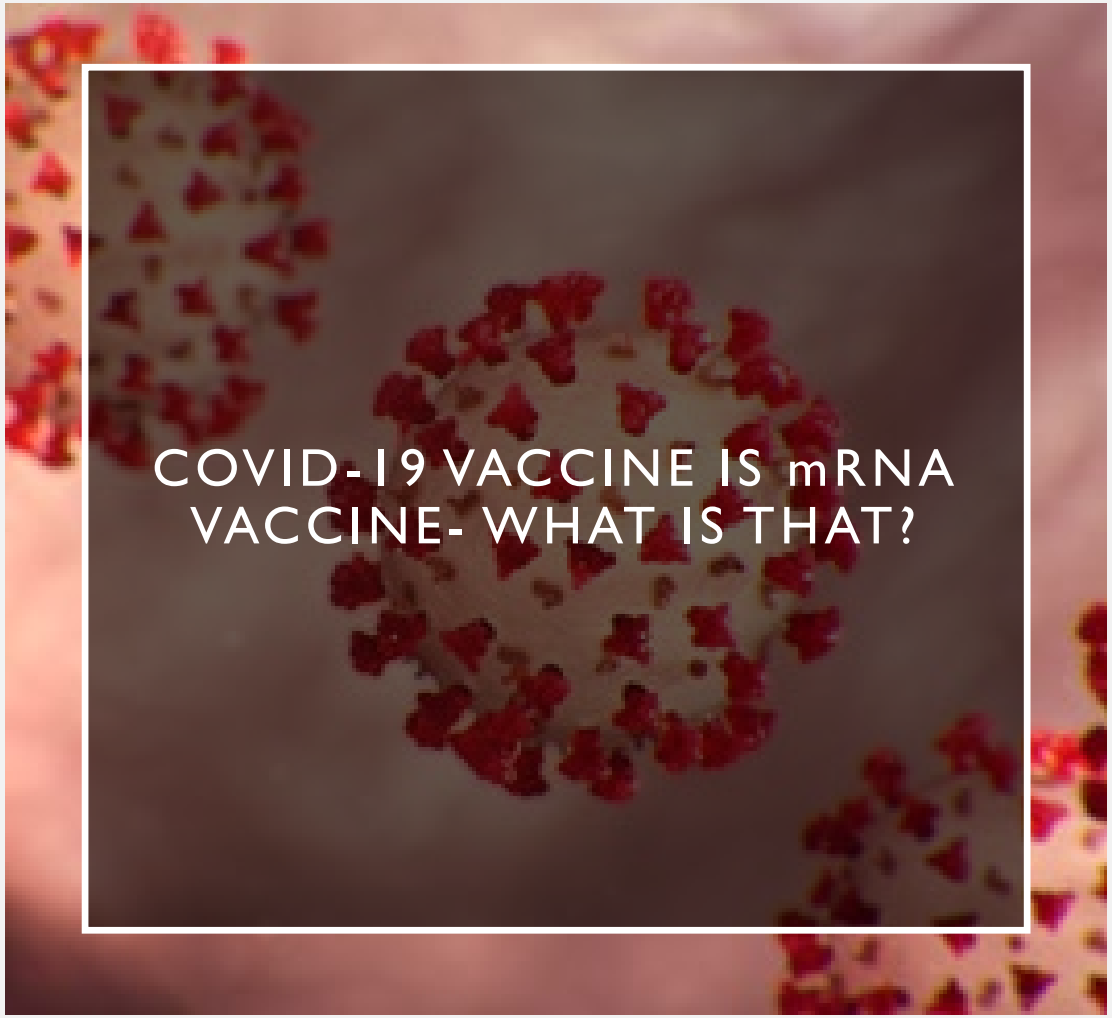
- How do we know the vaccine is effective and safe?
- Why should we trust the vaccine?
- Is there new technology being used and is that dangerous to me?
- What is an EUA and what does that mean for me?
- When and how long will I be protected?
- Will I still need to wear a mask?
- What are the expected 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 <u>NOT</u> 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

- **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

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I GET THE VACCINE?

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

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I GET THE VACCINE?

- **YOU MUST GET THE SECOND DOSE** because the vaccine will not protect you if only get one dose
- It is important to get the **SAME VACCINE** 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
  1. 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

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

- **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 <u>no steps are skipped</u> 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**

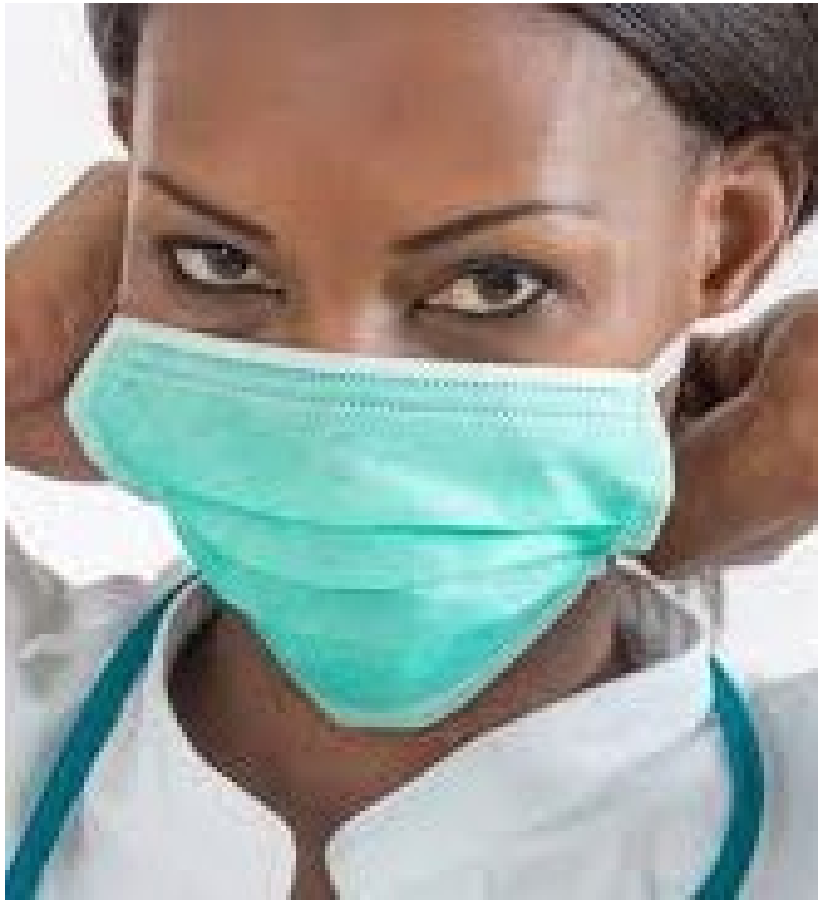
HOW WAS THE VACCINE DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?

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 **1-2 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?

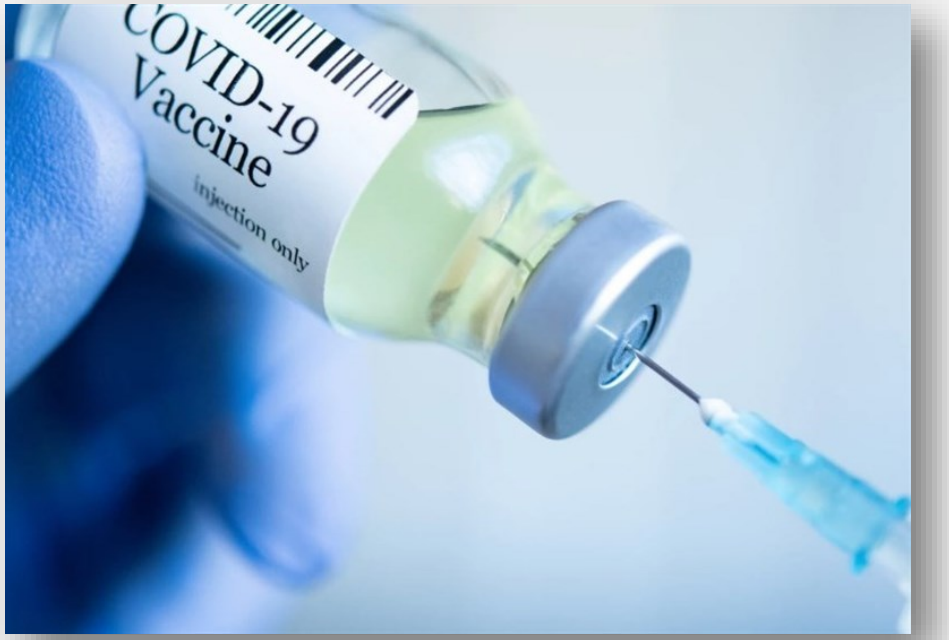
It is important to get information from reliable sources (CDC, AMDA, medical directors, providers) **Social media is full of misinformation and opinions based on that misinformation**

Here are some link to information:

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

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?