

What You Should Know about COVID Vaccination as Healthcare Staff

Patients Trust You for Information about COVID 19 Vaccination-this information can help you answer their questions, and your own

1. We may have more than one vaccination approved. CDC is working with your state public health department and their designated Immunization Program Manager(s) to plan for getting the vaccine to communities across the state. The government has already contracted with drug manufacturers to make the vaccine.
2. Vaccine safety: The approval of a vaccine involves two parts. First, the vaccine needs to be given to people who are exposed to COVID 19 and establish how effective it is or how well it keeps folks from becoming infected with COVID 19. When this information is ready, it goes to the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) to evaluate the safety of the vaccine, or what side effects people have when they receive it. Before a vaccine is released it must show that it is *effective and safe*.
3. The first vaccines released will be under Emergency Use Authorization or EUA. This means that the FDA has accelerated the approval. The FDA will continue to monitor effectiveness and side effects after a vaccines release. A video about EUA can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGkwaESsGBQ>
4. Limited vaccine doses will be available at first, but the goal is to have large amounts of vaccine available in 2021. An important factor is if the vaccine requires two doses for everyone or doubling the amount of vaccine needed for each person.
5. Who can get the vaccine first? The goal is to distribute the vaccine fairly. Right now, the plan is to give the vaccine to frontline workers first such as those who work in healthcare and first responders. Next, the most vulnerable people or the elderly and those with chronic conditions making them most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 infection. Right now, the vaccines are not for children, this may change in the future.
6. There is an application and training for organization providing COVID-19 vaccines. There also are requirements for vaccine storage and handling, product tracking, administration, and reporting. It is important to work with your state department to get information on vaccine distribution and availability in your community.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/vaccination.html> Nov 9, 2020