**KNOW THE FACTS**

**The PFIZER-BIONTECH and the MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE**

*This Fact Sheet contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccines.*

* **What is the purpose of the vaccines?**
* The Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna vaccines were produced as vaccine to help prevent COVID-19. To get the vaccine out, it had to ask approval for the emergency use of each vaccine. Because COVID-19 is so easily spread and potentially deadly, the government issued its ER approval so that it could get to the public as quickly as possible. On August 23 the Pfizer vaccine received full FDA approval for people 16 and over. The vaccine also has emergency approval for those ages 12-15. Full approval for Pfizer means the vaccine was followed for a longer time and processes were more closely monitored to determine safety and effectiveness. The Moderna vaccine is currently under review for full FDA approval.
* For immunocompromised people both vaccines are FDA/CDC approved for a third booster dose at least 4 weeks after the second dose of either vaccine, conditions can be found on the CDC/FDA website to prevent loss of effectiveness in immunocompromised individuals.
* **What was the approval process for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines?**

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were tested through the same process as other drugs. Both held trials with people of all races and with various underlying conditions such as asthma and diabetes. The vaccines do not contain the live virus COVID 19, that means you will not get COVID 19 from the vaccines. The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) determined the vaccines were safe and effective and any risks with the vaccine are outweighed by the benefit of taking the vaccine. Data regarding the long term effects of the vaccines will continue to be studied by the FDA but typically long terms side effects of a drug happen within two months following the vaccine being given to individuals.

* **How were the vaccines approved so quickly?**
* The technology used to make the vaccines has been well researched and used for over a decade.
* Approving drugs takes a long time because funding is sometimes an issue, however, with the COVID-19 vaccines, the government and private industries and others funded the vaccines being produced.
* Often it can be difficult to find volunteers, but since these drugs impacts everyone, there were many willing volunteers.
* **How do the vaccines work?**
* The vaccines work by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus

that causes COVID-19, and this protects you from getting sick with COVID-19.

* **Before you get the vaccine, tell your vaccination provider about all of your medical conditions.**
* **You should NOT get the Vaccines if you:**
* had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine
* had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine
* **What are the risks and what side effects have been reported with use of the vaccine?**
* Most side effects are mild and can include:
* Pain, redness where you received the shot
* General fatigue and cold-like symptoms
* On rare occasions, the vaccines could cause a severe allergic reaction; it usually happens within a few minutes to one hour after receiving the shot. Signs include:
* Difficulty breathing
* Swelling of face and throat
* Fast heartbeat
* These may not be all the possible side effects.

**PFIZER VACCINE**

* It does not contain eggs, preservatives or Latex
* The vaccine is given in the muscle of your arm and you receive two doses with 21 days between the first and second dose.
* The vaccine is 95% effective.
* People age 12 and over can receive the Pfizer vaccine.
* The Pfizer vaccine contains the following ingredients: mRNA, lipids (4hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), 2 [(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide, 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3- phosphocholine, and cholesterol), potassium chloride, monobasic potassium phosphate, sodium chloride, dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate, and sucrose.
* The trial included people age 16 and older. At least 20,000 people received one dose of the vaccine during the trial. Additional trials were conducted with those age 12 and up.

**MODERNA VACCINE**

* It does not contain eggs, preservatives or Latex
* The vaccine is given in the muscle of your arm and you receive two doses with 28 days between the first and second dose.
* The vaccine is 94.1% effective.
* People age 18 and over can receive the vaccine
* At least 15,000 people received one dose of the vaccine during the trial.
* The vaccine was tested on individuals 18-64 years of age.
* The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine contains the following ingredients: messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA), lipids (SM-102, polyethylene glycol [PEG] 2000 dimyristoyl glycerol [DMG], cholesterol, and 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine [DSPC]), tromethamine, tromethamine hydrochloride, acetic acid, sodium acetate, and sucrose.
* **Where can I get more information about the Pfizer Vaccine?**
* Visit CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
* Visit FDA at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legalregulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization>