How will the vaccine be given?

The COVID vaccine is given in the arm, like a flu vaccine, except this vaccination requires a series of 2 different vaccinations. The second shot is given 17-21 days after the first for Pfizer vaccination and 28 days after the first for Moderna.

What if I am late receiving the second vaccine in the series?

You should still receive the second vaccine as soon as possible. You will not need to repeat the entire series.

What if I have an adverse side effect after receiving the first vaccination?

The recommendation is to still receive the second vaccine to complete the series unless a physician recommends otherwise. Most side effects are minimal and self-resolving.

If I only have one vaccine in the two-vaccine series, am I protected against the virus?

The current data shows a 52% efficacy rate for the Pfizer vaccine after one dose. While this is much better than 0%, it is not enough to offer significant protection. Both shots in the series are necessary to reach the 95% efficacy rate.

Will the COVID vaccination be an annual vaccine (like a flu shot) or a booster (like tetanus)?

The answer to that is currently unknown. Since the first people in the trials were vaccinated at the end of July 2020, and the first vaccines were approved in December 2020, there is not yet enough information to determine the duration of effectiveness. The degree to which these vaccines protect against COVID-19 one or two years after vaccination will be determined later. Trial participants will continue to be monitored, so more can be learned. At this time, it is unknown if or when booster doses will be needed.

How effective is the vaccine?

The Pfizer COVID vaccine consists of a series of 2 immunizations with an efficacy (effective) rate of 95% 7 days after receiving the 2nd vaccine.

Is the vaccination mandatory?

No, we will not be mandating the vaccine. However, we encourage each of you to receive the vaccine to obtain the highest level of protection against COVID-19.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility in woman of child-bearing age?

There is zero evidence to confirm that the vaccine causes any side effects dealing with infertility. Side effects consist of mild flu-like symptoms for 2-3 days.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine change my genetic make-up?

No, the technology used for this vaccine has been around for decades. The COVID-19 vaccine does not affect your genetic coding or makeup in any way.

I have heard the vaccine arrives at a temperature of -80°C. What is the temperature when the vaccine is injected in my arm?

The FDA confirms vials of Pfizer coronavirus vaccine must be transported and stored at a temperature between -80°C and -60°C (-112°F to -76°F) in a thermal shipping container. The frigid temperature makes the vaccine more stable by slowing down
chemical reactions that would cause enzymes to break down the vaccine.

The vaccine is then thawed and diluted prior to administration. The vials must reach room temperature prior to dilution.

Once the vaccine is thawed and diluted, the vaccine is stored between 35° - 77° F and is used within 6 hours.

When the vaccine is injected, it will be at room temperature or slightly cooler and will not be frozen.

**Why am I included in the first round of vaccines?**

Long-term care facility deaths reported since mid-April account for more than half of all confirmed COVID deaths in Ohio. We know that the elderly, those who are immunocompromised, and those who live in congregate settings are at a much higher risk for contracting the virus and suffering higher rates of serious illness and death. Those with Intellectual or development disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the virus and should be vaccinated for their protection. Those who work in these types of settings are also at a higher risk of obtaining the virus.

**I’m worried about the unknown long-term effects. What is known about long-term effects?**

COVID-19 vaccines are tested in large clinical trials to assess their safety. However, it does take time, and more people getting vaccinated before we learn about very rare or long-term side effects. That is why safety monitoring will continue. CDC has an independent group of experts that reviews all the safety data as it comes in and provides regular safety updates. If a safety issue is detected, immediate action will take place to determine if the issue is related to the COVID-19 vaccine and determine the best course of action.

**Does the vaccine contain the live virus?**

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

**Is there pork products or fetal tissue in the vaccine?**

There is no pork or fetal tissue in the vaccine. There is also nothing in the vaccine able to “track you.”

**If you’ve had COVID, do you have to wait 90-days to get the vaccine?**

No. As long as you are past the quarantine period and without symptoms, you can get the vaccine. If you receive the antibody infusion for treatment of COVID-19, you would need to wait 90 days.

**Meet Jeanne Greene, Koinonia’s Chief Clinical and Program Officer**

Jeanne has over 20 years of direct nursing care and healthcare experience. She is ready to answer your questions or address your concerns regarding the COVID vaccine.

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