



*Connecting Individuals with Disabilities to Their Community*

## **FAQ's**

### **Planning for a Vaccine**

#### **Are there enough vaccines for everyone?**

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as large quantities are available. That is why, early in the response, the federal government began investing in select vaccine manufacturers to help them increase their ability to quickly make and distribute a large amount of COVID-19 vaccine. This will allow the United States to start with as much vaccine as possible and continually increase the supply in the weeks and months to follow. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as large quantities are available. Several thousand vaccination providers will be available, including doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.

#### **Will the vaccine be given onsite at Community Bridges?**

Community Bridges Leadership Team is doing everything that we can to get the vaccine to our staff, individuals, and families as soon as possible. At this time there is no plan to have vaccines available at our offices, however that may change as new information becomes available.

#### **Is Community Bridges going to mandate that I get a vaccine?**

No. Not at this time. While we strongly encourage you to get the vaccine if you are able, we are not mandating it at this time. Because our work often requires us to be "in person" we want to assure that everyone is safe. As a result, while not mandated at this time, we do encourage you to discuss with your primary care provider as soon as possible so that you have a plan when it is your turn for the vaccine.

#### **What is in the vaccine?**

The ingredients for each of the 2 vaccines can be found on the COVID-19 update #1 by clicking on the fact sheet links.

## **Getting Vaccinated**

### **How will I find out when I am eligible to get the vaccine?**

Please see the COVID-19 #2 for when you will be eligible. If you are eligible for the vaccine due to the kind of work you do here at Community Bridges, your manager will notify you as to how to move forward.

### **What about my family members? How will they know when to get the vaccine?**

Your family will follow the same guidelines as everyone else. Please see the chart (Covid-19 #2) for your approximate dates that they will be eligible. It is important to note that parent caregivers of those under 16 are eligible in phase 1b.

### **How is the vaccine given?**

Both vaccines are injected into a muscle (“intramuscular”). For adults, vaccine will be injected into the shoulder muscle called the deltoid.

### **Does it hurt?**

There may be some discomfort as with any vaccine at the injection site, but it usually is temporary.

### **How many shots do I have to get?**

Both the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, require two doses. The interval (or, spacing) between the Pfizer vaccine dose 1 and dose 2 is 21 days. The interval (or, spacing) between the Moderna vaccine, dose 1 and dose 2 is 28 days.

### **If I get the Pfizer vaccine, can I get the second shot with another brand?**

No. The second shot must be the same brand as the first shot.

### **How long will protection last?**

It is not yet known how long a person who gets the vaccine will be protected: it could be lifetime, like the polio vaccine or it could be a year, like the flu shot. Experts are studying this to learn more, and we will share new evidence as it becomes available.

### **How will we know if a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?**

The process for vaccine trials has not changed. Operation Warp Speed has allowed for trials to progress faster because of federal funding, without compromising safety. The development time is shortened, but all of the usual processes are in place for safety such as large clinical trials, which includes different populations (such as elderly or minority persons), independent review by FDA and CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and our own state experts.

### **Will I need to pay for a COVID-19 vaccine?**

No. Vaccine doses will be available to the American people at no cost regardless of insurance status. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee or office visit, and payment could be the responsibility of the patient. However, most public and private insurance companies will cover that fee. It is always best to talk with your health insurer or primary care provider about your specific coverage, but it is expected there will be no patient cost sharing.

### **What if I don't have insurance?**

Vaccines will be provided at no cost.

### **I had COVID-19. Should I still be vaccinated?**

Yes. Unless you are currently actively infected with COVID-19, you should get the vaccine. Studies have shown that some individuals can get the disease more than once.

## **After the Vaccine**

### **Will I be able to stop wearing a mask and social distancing if I get the vaccine?**

No. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue to use all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change the current recommendations.

Other factors, such as how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

### **Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?**

No. The COVID-19 vaccine cannot give you the disease.

### **I have a compromised immune system. Is it safe for me to get the vaccine?**

Probably yes, but you should consult with your healthcare provider about your specific concerns. National recommendations will be made based on research as to whether the vaccine is safe in people with compromised immune systems.

### **I live with someone whose immune system doesn't work well. Is it safe for me to get the vaccine?**

Yes. Because of the way the vaccine is made, it cannot give you the disease and so you cannot infect another person by getting the vaccine.

**Where will I be able to get the vaccine?**

For Phase 1a and b, vaccine will be provided by hospitals for their health workers, CVS and Walgreens for long-term care facilities, and at 13 fixed sites throughout NH for first responders and health workers not working for a hospital and for those long term care facilities not enrolled with CVS or Walgreens. In future phases, vaccine will be available in New Hampshire through health care providers, pharmacies, and special vaccination clinics, depending on your risk for disease.