VACCINATE VNSNY!

FAQ #4: December 28, 2020 — Containing Additional Questions and Answers from the December 21st Vaccinate VNSNY! Conference Call

The following FAQs were adapted from questions and answers submitted by VNSNY staff for the Vaccinate VNSNY! Conference Call hosted by Andria Castellanos on Monday, December 21st.

Vaccine Basics & Safety

Will staff be monitored after receiving the Moderna vaccine for potential side effects?
All staff will be provided with information about what to watch for as far as possible side effects or adverse events, and our CERT team will be available to answer questions about these. In addition, people should always consult with their own primary care physician about any medical concerns they may have. Everyone receiving the Moderna vaccine will be observed for the rare, immediate allergic side effects that have been reported, and the VNSNY vaccinators are all trained and equipped to deal with these reactions. Any side effects beyond the acute period (that is, the first few hours after receiving the shot) do not need to be reported if they are mild, but they can be discussed with the CERT team or the individual’s medical provider if desired.

Is the second dose of the vaccine different than the first? If so, will they be shipped simultaneously?
The second dose of the vaccine is the same as the first.

Is it recommended to take the vaccine if you have an allergic reaction to sulfur?
The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine does not contain sulfur, nor does the Pfizer vaccine. However, if you have a history of severe allergic reactions (such as anaphylaxis) to medication or vaccination, you should talk to your doctor.

Is it safe to vaccinate a person that has an autoimmune disease like Crohn’s disease? Did the trial include these people as well?
Yes, people with chronic illness—including Crohn’s disease—were included in the vaccine trials. According to the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation, it is safe and recommended for people with Crohn’s disease to receive the vaccine.

If someone is vaccinated, will that impact the result of a PCR or rapid COVID test? Might they get a false positive?
No, vaccination will not cause you to test positive on a PCR or rapid COVID-19 test. If you receive a positive result after vaccination, it is a true positive, and you should follow all quarantine protocols.
Is this vaccine for children under age of 18 years old?
Currently, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is approved for emergency use in those 18 years of age or older, and the Pfizer vaccine for those 16 years of age or older. Moderna is currently performing trials to assess the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in adolescents.

Vaccine Availability & Administration

There is much speculation on the news about intentional delays and COVID-19 vaccines sitting in warehouses. Is this impacting us?
No. The New York City Department of Health’s Bureau of Immunization has advised us we will receive a shipment of the Moderna vaccine as soon as possible. We have no knowledge of any intentional delays.

Can you please state when VNSNY thinks they are going to get the vaccine and when VNSNY expects to start vaccinating their first employee?
We don’t know exactly when we’ll receive the vaccine, but we are making preparations to enable us to move quickly upon receipt. All of our systems and processes are now in place to begin vaccinating our highest-priority staff within a day of receiving the vaccine.

How many people do you foresee yourself vaccinating per day? And how long will it take to vaccinate all field workers in Manhattan?
We are putting sufficient staff in place to vaccinate about 150 people per day to start with. How long it takes to vaccinate our entire staff will depend on vaccine availability.

President Trump recently passed an executive order regarding American citizens being vaccinated first. How will that affect our vaccine deployment, especially regarding our hardworking staff who are not citizens?
The President’s executive order states that vaccines must be distributed domestically before the United States shares its supply with other countries. This will not affect our vaccine program.