FAQ #7: January 11, 2021 -- Containing Additional Questions and Answers from January 4th Vaccinate VNSNY! Conference Call

The following FAQs were adapted from additional questions submitted by VNSNY staff for the Vaccinate VNSNY! Conference Calls hosted by Andria Castellanos on Monday, January 4th.

I'm worried that the vaccine has to be on dry ice or it’s not good to use. The vaccine will be kept on dry ice only for transportation. Once received, it can be stored in a freezer at -4°F or can be kept in a typical refrigerator for up to 30 days prior to administration.

Why does the vaccine need two doses? Can we decide to take just one? The two-dose regimen is important to ensure you develop the highest level of immunity provided by the vaccine. Effectiveness after just one dose of the vaccine is around 80%, compared to the 94.5% achieved after two doses. Two-dose vaccines typically also tend to offer longer-lasting immunity. In addition, single-dose regimens have not been thoroughly studied. The 80% effectiveness refers to the period between the two doses. It is not known how much if any protection remains if the second dose is not received. For these reasons, it is highly recommended that you complete the full course of vaccination doses.

If I had COVID-19 but was asymptomatic, should I take the vaccine? Should people with antibodies due to COVID-19 disease still be vaccinated? Yes. At this time, we don’t know how long naturally acquired immunity to COVID-19 will last, and there have been cases of patients being reinfected. The Pfizer vaccine trial clearly showed that participants with evidence of prior COVID had a lower rate of symptomatic illness if they received the vaccine compared to those receiving placebo, which suggests that getting the Moderna vaccine may provide stronger immunity than the natural immunity you developed after infection. So it’s safer to get the vaccine than to rely on your prior antibodies. A history of COVID-19 or positive antibody tests will not change how the vaccine affects you, or the possibility of side effects. However, those who have recently had COVID-19 should delay vaccination until 90 days after your diagnosis.
Does VNSNY have possession of the vaccine? When will vaccination begin? We received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on January 6th, and staff vaccinations have been underway since January 7th.

Will you post the vaccine insert on the Intranet so that people considering taking the vaccine can review? The vaccine fact sheet can be viewed [here](https://example.com).

Will vaccinations only be provided during normal working hours/days? Vaccinations are being scheduled 7 days a week from 8am-4:15 pm.

If we can’t get the vaccine in other regions (such as Nassau County) through VNSNY, can you direct us to somewhere else that will allow us to participate? You can find a listing of non-VNSNY vaccination sites where you may able to access vaccine by going the Vaccinate VNSNY! page on the Intranet or the COVID-19 Vaccine section of the Partners in Care Resource Center on Frontline.

Governor Cuomo has stated that vaccination is expanding past health care workers this week, but we aren’t vaccinated yet. What should we do? We are making every effort to vaccinate our staff as quickly as possible. As noted above, you can also find a listing of non-VNSNY vaccination sites where you may able to access vaccine by going the Vaccinate VNSNY! page on the Intranet or the COVID-19 Vaccine section of the Partners in Care Resource Center on Frontline.