

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the (COVID-19) CORONAVIRUS VACCINE ROLLOUT

SOLANO PUBLIC HEALTH | December 16, 2020

Solano County will receive its initial batch of COVID-19 vaccine, focusing on front-line, healthcare workers.

While the community waits for the vaccine to be available, we all must do our part to continue to take action in protecting ourselves, our loved ones, our community members and health care system. We all need to remain vigilant – wear face covering when out in public settings, keep physical distance from others outside the household, and stay home as much as possible.

How many vaccine doses will be provided to Solano County?

- Solano County will be receiving 3900 doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, which will come later this week. An additional 4,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine is expected to arrive in the next few weeks, pending approval for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- These doses represent 7900 individuals who will receive the first dose this December. The second shot will be administered in 3 or 4 weeks, depending on the vaccine maker.

Who is prioritized to get the vaccine?

- As outlined by the state and federal government, the vaccines will first be directed to people at highest risk of getting infected or being exposed to COVID-19: critical healthcare workers.

How safe are the vaccines?

- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have been granted an emergency authorization for use, which means that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has run a thorough analysis on its safety and effectiveness.
- The FDA intends to authorize emergency use of the vaccine on Friday.
- The vaccines have been rigorously evaluated for safety and efficacy by the federal government and a separate panel from the state of California.
- The federal review process, combined by the state's review process, ensures that the vaccine meets safety standards before they are distributed to the public.

What are the side effects of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Common side effects include swelling and pain at the injection site, as well as fever, chills, tiredness and headache.
- Severe allergic reactions to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are extremely rare. Patients with allergies to food, latex, pollen or other substance do not have to take special precautions and are recommended to receive the vaccine.
- Patients with a history of severe reactions to prior vaccines, especially those with anaphylactic reactions to food or medicine, should discuss the risks with their doctor and be monitored after taking the shot.

How will the vaccines be stored and distributed?

- Solano County has purchased eight ultra-cold deep-freeze freezers to properly store and maintain the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- The County has also invested in additional commercial refrigeration units and associated transportation containers to store and relocate the Moderna vaccines, as well as other vaccines that are anticipated to be received in the near future.

- Solano County will be working closely with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to ensure priority groups most critical to local COVID-19 response efforts and most vulnerable to severe illness will receive them first.
- Solano County continues to coordinate with local hospitals to ensure that early shipments of the vaccine are used rapidly and efficiently.

When can the public get vaccinated?

- Because the initial vaccine supply will be very limited, the priority is for healthcare workers, especially those ICU/Emergency Department staff in hospitals, COVID-19 unit staff, COVID-19 vaccination staff, COVID-19 transportation staff and staff in skilled nursing facilities and long-term care.
- Solano County will distribute and administer vaccines as soon as they are available. In alignment with the state, Solano County will be transparent, careful and equitable in the vaccine distribution process.
- When vaccines are available to the public, they will be provided at no cost.

How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

- Vaccines help the immune system fight infections in the future. COVID-19 vaccines will protect individuals from the virus that causes COVID-19 without having to get the illness.
- It typically takes a few weeks after the last dose in a series to become fully protected. Sometimes vaccination can cause mild fever or cold-like symptoms, but these are not harmful.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine give me COVID-19?

- COVID-19 vaccination cannot cause COVID-19. The goal of vaccines is to teach the immune systems how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](#).

If people already had COVID-19, will they benefit from the vaccine?

- People are advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before. This is due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and because re-infection with COVID-19 is possible.
- At this time, data is limited regarding to how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19, or how long the immunity produced by vaccination lasts.

For more information, visit:

- Solano County COVID-19 Vaccine Page: www.solanocounty.com/covidvaccine
- State of California COVID-19 Vaccine Page: <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Vaccine Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>