

**CO**RONA**VI**RUS **D**ISEASE 2019

(COVID-19)

**COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points for Participants**

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| **Audience:** PACE Participants |
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NOTE: The vaccine situation is fast-moving and continues to evolve. If participants have in-depth questions, or personal concerns, they should speak with their PACE provider.

# When can I get my vaccine?

# The vaccine will be available in stages. The first stage goes to healthcare workers and those living and working in nursing homes. PACE participants will be one of the next stages. We do not have a date for when we will be able to provide the vaccine for our participants, but it will most likely be in early 2021.

# Do I have to get the vaccine?

# You do not have to get the vaccine, but we do strongly encourage you to get it. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will help us end the pandemic sooner. PACE participants are at greater risk from the virus itself so getting protected is very important.

# Why do healthcare workers get the vaccine first?

Healthcare workers play an important role in keeping our community healthy. Because they are at risk of being exposed to people with COVID-19 each day on the job, they need to be protected. Protecting them also helps protect our participants.

# Will you let me know when it’s my turn to get the vaccine?

Your PACE medical provider will discuss the vaccine with you. We will send communications as soon as we have access to the vaccine for PACE participants.

# Is the vaccine safe?

We are confident in the safety of the vaccine. The vaccine has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). COVID-19 vaccines have been tested to make sure they meet safety standards.

# What side effects are there?

The most common side effects are pain and redness at the shot site, feeling tired, muscle and joint aches, headaches and low-grade fever. Most side effects last less than 24 hours and those ages 55 and older reported fewer side effects.

# How many vaccine doses will be needed?

Two shots are needed to provide the complete protection.

# Is it possible for the COVID-19 vaccine to give me the virus?

No. The COVID-19 cannot give you COVID-19.

# I’ve already had COVID-19. Do I still need to get the vaccine?

# Yes, you should still consider getting the vaccine. We do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Getting the vaccine will keep you protected.

# Will the flu shot protect me from getting COVID-19?

No. A flu vaccine will not protect you from getting COVID-19, but it can prevent you from getting influenza (flu).

# How does the vaccine work?

The COVID-19 vaccine gives instructions for our cells to make a harmless



virus. s building an immune

response by making antibodies to prevent the ability to multiply.

# vaccinated, do I need to continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using 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. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

# Where can I get more information?

We provide up-to-date information on our website.