



Strike Force Vaccine Team FAQs

Subject:	COVID Vaccine 1a Distribution	Issue Date:	12/14/20
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Absolute Pharmacy's Strike Force Team will be providing and administering the vaccine to your residents and staff. The purpose of this FAQ is to document answers to questions regarding Absolute Pharmacy's Vaccine Distribution.

Topic	Questions
Vaccine Information	1. What is the COVID-19 vaccine? The goal of the COVID-19 vaccine is to teach your body's immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. There are two key reasons to get vaccinated: to protect ourselves and to protect those around us.
	2. Which vaccine is Absolute Pharmacy administering and how often? Absolute will administer the Pfizer vaccine in the initial waves. With the Pfizer vaccine, each person receives two doses 21 days apart (plus or minus 4 days).
	3. What is the Pfizer vaccine? The Pfizer vaccine is an mRNA type vaccination. These vaccines work by injecting part of disease's mRNA (which can't cause disease) into the body to cause a protective response. Our body then develops white blood cells (immunity cells) that remember how to fight the virus if exposed. Although utilizing mRNA is novel, the technology has been utilized to support vaccine creation for other deadly diseases, including Zika virus.
	4. How effective is the vaccine? Pfizer announced that its vaccine is 95% effective. This is based on the results of nearly 43,000 adults in the US and in other countries who took part in the study.
	5. How safe is the vaccine? The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. The FDA uses rigorous standards to determine if a vaccine is safe and effective. (Please see ODH, Frequently Asked Questions/COVID-19 Vaccine at coronavirus.ohio.gov for more information.)
	6. What are the known side effects? A small percentage of participants in the trials reported local reactions such as injection-site pain and mild to moderate systemic reactions (fever, chills, fatigue), which resolved in 36-48 hours.

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	<p>7. How quickly will immunity occur after vaccination?</p>
	<p>Two doses are needed for the vaccine recipient to achieve the studied 95% efficacy rate of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Although, alternate sources have indicated that protection against COVID-19 may occur about 10 days after the first dose is administered, which is much sooner than initially thought. It is thought that efficacy is about 52% with the first dose, then reaches 95% with the second dose.</p>
	<p>8. What if a patient is lost to follow-up and doesn't get their second dose within the recommended time-frame?</p>
	<p>If it has been greater than 21 (\pm 4) days since their first dose, they should get the second dose at their earliest opportunity. There is no need to repeat/re-start the series.</p>
	<p>9. How long does immunity last?</p>
	<p>It is too soon to tell if a booster will be needed. Trial participants will continue to be followed for over two years to determine if immunity wanes over time.</p>
	<p>10. Can you get vaccinated if you have already had COVID-19?</p>
	<p>It is ok to receive the vaccine; no issues were noted in trial vaccine recipients.</p>
	<p>11. What if we find out someone was COVID positive (but asymptomatic) during vaccine administration?</p>
	<p>It is ok to receive the vaccine; no issues were noted in trial vaccine recipients.</p>
	<p>12. Should I defer vaccination if I have been exposed to someone with COVID-19?</p>
	<p>If you work or live in a congregate living setting, there is no need to defer vaccination due to exposure. However, individuals in the outpatient/community setting should defer vaccination until after their quarantine period has ended.</p>
	<p>13. Are any groups precluded from receiving the vaccine?</p>
	<p>The EUA has only approved the Pfizer vaccine for use in individuals 16 and older. Only those who have an allergy to one of the components of the vaccine (i.e. polyethylene glycol) should not be vaccinated.</p>
	<p>14. Should caution be exercised with any groups?</p>
	<p>Those that have had a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine or an injectable medication should exercise caution. This group of individuals should consult with their primary care provider prior to vaccine receipt. Individuals in this group will need an increased observation period after vaccine administration (30 minutes) if it is determined that the benefit of vaccination outweighs the risk.</p>
	<p>15. Should I still receive the COVID-19 vaccine if I was treated with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma?</p>
	<p>Yes, you may receive the vaccine but should wait 90 days after treatment receipt before doing so.</p>

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	<p>16. What if an individual inadvertently receives another vaccine within 14 days of COVID-19 vaccine receipt?</p>
	<p>Although not recommended, it is not necessary to repeat either vaccine.</p>
	<p>17. What if an individual inadvertently receives two different COVID-19 vaccines (i.e. Pfizer and Moderna)?</p>
	<p>Although not recommended, there is no need to worry. No doses need repeated.</p>
	<p>18. Do I need to wear a mask or get tested after I complete the COVID-19 vaccine series?</p>
	<p>Yes, all social distancing practices and infection control protocols should be followed by all individuals, even those that have received the vaccine.</p>
	<p>19. Will active positive residents or staff get the vaccine?</p>
	<p>Symptomatic residents or staff with active COVID-19 infections should not be vaccinated. Vaccination should be delayed until symptoms resolve. There is no specific interval between infection resolution and vaccination receipt that must be followed.</p>

Topic	Questions
Facility Preparation	<p>1. Should facilities find out how many staff and residents are willing to take vaccine prior to delivery?</p>
	<p>Yes, the plan is to confirm and obtain vaccination consent forms prior to scheduling the vaccination day(s). In the meantime, all facilities should have received an email from Absolute Pharmacy on 12/7 with a request for information: COVID-19 Vaccine Information Planning Form. This form must be returned to Absolute Pharmacy for tentative clinic dates to be scheduled.</p>
	<p>2. When will facilities receive consent forms?</p>
	<p>After the COVID-19 vaccine is approved by the FDA, the COVID-19 Consent Form/ Vaccine Administration Records can be sent to each facility for review and completion by residents (or POA) and staff who want to receive the vaccine on Clinic Day 1. Facilities must follow the instructions set forth by Absolute Pharmacy: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Communication Form memo regarding the collection of the consent forms. These forms can be faxed as soon as they are completed. <u>Consent forms must be returned to the Pharmacy by noon, the day prior to a facility's scheduled clinic;</u> only the amount of vaccine corresponding to consents received will be brought the day of the clinic.</p>
	<p>3. What else must facilities do to prepare for their Vaccine Clinics?</p>
	<p>Vaccinators will not travel room-to-room in order to minimize unnecessary exposure. Therefore, facilities must designate vaccination area(s) within facility common space that can support one-way resident traffic and maintain 6 feet of distance between residents receiving vaccines. It is suggested that one space per wing or hall be established, if possible, to maximize cohorting of residents and staff.</p>



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	<p>4. Should facilities designate staff to assist on scheduled clinic days?</p>
	<p>Yes, please! Facilities should ensure designated facility personnel are available on scheduled clinic days to facilitate expedited vaccine administration. This assistance will be critical to bringing residents to the designate vaccination area, as well as preparing residents for vaccination. The clinic day motto is: "Sleeves Up"!</p>
	<p>5. Is there guidance on whether or not all staff and residents should get the COVID-19 vaccine on Clinic Day 1?</p>
	<p>Due to concerns that were brought up about preparing for systemic signs and symptoms following COVID-19 vaccination, and the potential for additional resident management and unnecessary staff call-offs, the CDC posted 2 guidance documents: LTC residents: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/post-vaccine-considerations-residents.html Healthcare personnel: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/post-vaccine-considerations-healthcare-personnel.html</p>

Topic	Questions
Clinic Scheduling	<p>1. How will each facility be prioritized?</p>
	<p>In accordance with the CDC and ACIP, congregate living residents and staff are able to receive the vaccine within the first release (Phase 1a), with priority being given to SNFs. Therefore, Absolute will schedule clinics at SNFs in the first wave, and the other types of facilities will be scheduled in subsequent waves.</p>
	<p>2. How many clinics will there be at each facility?</p>
	<p>An Absolute Pharmacy Strike Force Team will conduct three clinics at each facility within a span of approximately two months. Because the vaccine requires 2 doses: vaccine dose 1 will be provided on Clinic Day 1. Dose 2 will be administered on Clinic Day 2. Clinic Day 3 will be scheduled to ensure that new residents/staff receiving their 1st dose on Clinic Day 2 receive his/her 2nd dose. Clinic days 2 and 3 will be scheduled at 21 day intervals (plus or minus 4 days).</p>
	<p>3. Who is responsible for tracking the 21 day intervals and scheduling each subsequent clinic?</p>
	<p>Absolute Pharmacy will take care of this for each participating facility. Absolute Pharmacy will notify your facility's designated Vaccine Coordinator of your Clinic schedule.</p>

Topic	Questions
Clinic Day and Vaccine Administration	<p>1. Who is responsible for handling, preparing and administering the vaccine? For completing the administration record information?</p>
	<p>The Absolute Pharmacy Strike Force Team is responsible for these steps on scheduled Clinic Days for residents and staff. The Strike Force Team may request the assistance of facility nursing staff to administer the shot to residents quarantined to their rooms under specific circumstances.</p>



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	<p>2. What supplies will the Absolute Strike Force Team bring with them to each clinic?</p> <p>The team will bring the vaccines and related supplies, required paperwork, and his/her own PPE. The Strike Force Team will also complete and leave a COVID-19 Vaccination Card for every individual that receives the vaccine that day.</p>
	<p>3. Will the team comply with the facility's screening procedures prior to entering the facility?</p> <p>Yes, the team will comply. Strike Force Team members will also receive COVID testing weekly.</p>
	<p>4. Who is on each team?</p> <p>The team will consist of at least one Vaccinator (Pharmacist or Nurse) and pharmacy support personnel (Account Manager, Consultant Pharmacist, or Pharmacy Technician). The team size will be driven by the number of vaccines to be administered the day of the clinic.</p>

Topic	Questions
Follow-up	<p>1. Who is paying for COVID-19 vaccine?</p> <p>Vaccine doses will be given at no cost. However, vaccination providers are able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot. Absolute Pharmacy will bill the resident or staff member's public or private insurance for the administration fee. The billing details are currently under development by Absolute Pharmacy and Billing. Any individual with no insurance is not to be charged the administration fee.</p>
	<p>2. What should a facility do if an abnormal side effect occurs after vaccine administration?</p> <p>Follow your facility's established protocols for handling abnormal side effects <u>AND</u> report these occurrences to Absolute Pharmacy. Absolute Pharmacy is responsible for reporting this into The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) to document any unlisted adverse event(s). Facilities must submit info to the covidvaccine@abshealth.com email address. Please see the VAERS Checklist for items that should be included when submitting information.</p>
	<p>3. Who is responsible for submitting all of the necessary reporting requirements to the Immunization Information System (IIS)?</p> <p>Absolute Pharmacy will submit all data to IIS.</p>

Topic	Questions
Communications	<p>1. How can facilities submit questions to Absolute Pharmacy regarding any aspect of the Vaccine Clinics?</p> <p>Facilities may submit questions to the covidvaccine@abshealth.com email. This email is monitored daily. Any inquires will be responded to within 2 business days.</p>
	<p>2. How will information and forms be shared?</p>



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	<p>All communications will be directed to each facility's Vaccine Coordinator. Therefore, it is important for Absolute Pharmacy to have every Vaccine Coordinator's email address on file. Anyone other than the designated facility Vaccine Coordinator that wants to be included this email distribution list may send a request to the covidvaccine@abshealth.com email.</p>
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