

HOMECENTRIS STAFF COVID SURVEY RESPONSES

2. Would you voluntarily receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available for Home Health workers during the first or second phase of vaccines?

[More Details](#)

● Yes 39
● No 26



MOST CITED QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS:

1. How safe are the vaccines?

FDA evaluated and analyzed the safety and effectiveness data from clinical trials conducted in tens of thousands of study participants and manufacturing information submitted by the manufacturers.

a. Pfizer:

- i. FDA has determined that the totality of the available data provides clear evidence that Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may be effective in preventing COVID-19 and support that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine's use in millions of people 16 years of age and older, including healthy individuals.
- ii. Serious adverse events, while uncommon (<1.0%), were observed at slightly higher numerical rates in the vaccine study group compared to the saline placebo study group, both overall and for certain specific adverse events occurring in very small numbers. These represented common medical events that occur in the general population at similar frequency. Upon further review by FDA, these imbalances do not raise a safety concern, nor do they suggest a causal relationship to vaccination for the vast majority of reported serious adverse events.
- iii. Serious adverse events considered by FDA to be plausibly related to the vaccine or vaccination procedure were one case of shoulder injury at the vaccination site and one case of swollen lymph node in the armpit opposite the vaccination arm.
- iv. No safety concerns were identified in subgroup analyses by age, race, ethnicity, medical comorbidities, or prior SARS-CoV-2 infection.

- v. Severe allergic reactions have been reported following administration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine during mass vaccination in another country outside of the clinical trial setting. Information pertaining to severe allergic reaction is included in the Fact Sheet for Vaccine Providers, Fact Sheet for Vaccine Recipients and the EUA Prescribing Information. Additional adverse reactions, some of which may be serious, may become apparent with more widespread use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. (FDA website).

b. Moderna

- i. COVID-19 Vaccine is administered as a series of two doses, one month apart. The available safety data to support the EUA include an analysis of 30,351 participants enrolled in an ongoing randomized, placebo-controlled study conducted in the U.S. These participants, 15,185 of whom received the vaccine and 15,166 of whom received saline placebo, were followed for a median of more than two months after receiving the second dose. The most commonly reported side effects, which typically lasted several days, were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes in the same arm as the injection, nausea and vomiting, and fever. Of note, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose, so it is important for vaccination providers and recipients to expect that there may be some side effects after either dose, but even more so after the second dose.

2. How effective are the vaccines?

- a. Pfizer: The data to support the EUA include an analysis of 36,523 participants in the ongoing randomized, placebo-controlled international study, the majority of whom are U.S. participants, who completed the 2-dose vaccination regimen and did not have evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection through 7 days after the second dose. Among these participants, 18,198 received the vaccine and 18,325 received saline placebo. The vaccine was 95 percent effective in preventing COVID-19 disease among these clinical trial participants with 8 COVID-19 cases in the vaccine group and 162 COVID-19 cases in the placebo group. Of these 170 COVID-19 cases, 1 in the vaccine group and 3 in the placebo group were classified as severe.
- b. Moderna. The effectiveness data to support the EUA include an analysis of 28,207 participants in the ongoing randomized, placebo-controlled U.S. study who did not have evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection prior to the first dose of vaccine. Among these participants, 14,134 received the vaccine and 14,073 received placebo. The vaccine was 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease among these clinical trial participants with 11 cases of COVID-19 in the vaccine group and 185 in the placebo group. At the time of the analysis of these 196 COVID-19 cases, none in the vaccine group and 30 in the placebo group were classified as severe. After the analysis of these 196 cases was completed, one severe case in the vaccine group was identified and is awaiting confirmation. At this time, data are not available to determine how long the vaccine will

provide protection, nor is there evidence that the vaccine prevents transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from person to person.

3. What are the potential side effects?

- a. The most commonly reported side effects, which typically lasted several days, were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. Of note, more people experienced these side effects after the second dose than after the first dose, so it is important for vaccination providers and recipients to expect that there may be some side effects after either dose, but even more so after the second dose.
- b. FDA recommends telling your vaccine provider if you:
 - i. have any allergies
 - ii. have a fever
 - iii. have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner
 - iv. are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
 - v. are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
 - vi. are breastfeeding
 - vii. have received another COVID-19 vaccine
- c. There are a few articles about the vaccine impacting fertility, but the FDA website refutes those claims. Please consult your PCP.

4. Will the vaccines work against the multiple strains of the virus?

- a. This is very new and there is not clinical data yet, however, an article from the Johns Hopkins Medicine publication states there is no reason to believe the current vaccines won't work against the virus. [Read more here.](#)

5. How often will we need to be vaccinated?

- a. Data are not yet available to inform about the duration of protection that the vaccines will provide (FDA website).

Links to Vaccine Information:

- CDC: [Vaccine FAQs](#)
- CDC: [Understanding how COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- CDC: [Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- CDC: [COVID Vaccines and Allergic Reactions](#)
- CDC: [What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Pfizer Vaccine Info](#)
- FDA: [Pfizer Vaccine Info](#)

- CDC: [Moderna Vaccine Info](#)
- FDA: [Pfizer Vaccine FAQs](#)

6. Will this vaccine be mandatory at HomeCentris?

- a. Not at this time. Various government agencies have issued guidance stating that health care providers can mandate the vaccine, but HomeCentris is not currently making vaccination a requirement. In reading your responses, there are enough valid concerns and questions that HomeCentris will not require its clinicians to be vaccinated. This may change in the future depending on emerging information about the safety profile, side effects, and the continuing prevalence of the virus. However, we are getting many inquiries from patients and families about our vaccination policy and we expect many patients will request only those clinicians with vaccinations. If that is the case and you choose not to be vaccinated, be aware that our ability to assign you new cases will be reduced.