



# COVID-19 COMMUNICATION



## COVID-19 Vaccination Update

A message to all CMH team members from John Alexander, MD, MHCM, FACEP,  
Chief Medical Officer, CMH

Dear CMH Team,

Good news! We received our delivery of the Moderna vaccine. We are excited about rolling out this vaccine tomorrow at all three hospital campuses. Over the three days of vaccine clinics last week, we learned a lot, refined our processes and had so many hero volunteers step up to help. That allowed us to vaccinate more than 550 team members who provide clinical care and support to the frontline areas identified by the Maine CDC as priorities – ED, ICU and COVID care units. We are confident about keeping that amazing momentum going!

To address a few myths and facts – We have been able to draw up 6, and sometimes 7, doses of the vaccine from each bottle, allowing us to expand how many people we can administer the vaccine to. We have received notification that the second shipment of Pfizer vaccine will come from this same batch, thereby ensuring that we will have the same amount available to all team members for their mandatory second dose. Also, we have NOT disposed of any unused vaccine doses. At the end of each day last week, we went directly to frontline clinical departments to ensure every single dose was given in the arm of a team member.

If you are eligible to be offered the vaccine at this time, you will receive an invitation where you can indicate whether or not you want to receive it at this time.

The sequence in which team members are offered the vaccine was determined in line with the considerations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. We looked at which CMH roles were at greatest risk of exposure to COVID-19 by examining which ones involved direct contact with patients, handling of infectious material, and whether they were in an inpatient or outpatient settings. For this first month of vaccine administration, we have been directed by Maine CDC to administer vaccines only to team members who care for inpatients.

As we wind down with our initial allotment of the Pfizer vaccine, we wanted to provide you with information

about the Moderna vaccine.

In the clinical studies that supported the FDA decision to grant Emergency Use Authorization for the Moderna vaccine, the key findings are:

- It was 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 infection, with 11 people infected out of 14,134 receiving the vaccine, compared to 162 persons of the 14,073 who received placebo;
- at the time of the analysis, none in the vaccine group and 30 in the placebo group were classified as severe; and
- the most common side effects included:
  - pain, redness and/or swelling at the injection site in 91.6% of recipients;
  - fatigue in 68.5%;
  - headache in 63%;
  - muscle aches in 59.6%;
  - joint aches in 44.8%; and
  - chills in 43.4%.

We are sharing information with you about the vaccines so you can make the best choice for yourself. Download this [Moderna vaccine fact sheet](#) for additional information.

If you have questions, we will do our very best to answer them. A link on the team member portal – <https://www.cmhc.org/team-alert/ask-a-question/> – allows you to submit questions and we also have a [vaccine FAQ document](#). You may also find this [material from the CDC](#) useful.

Thank you for all you've done in these unprecedented times!

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