Q&A on COVID-19 Vaccine information

Answers provided by Johnson County Public Health

Question: Which vaccine will The Arc of Southeast Iowa be receiving?
Answer: The Modena is likely the vaccine pharmacies will be administering.

Question: If you have had COVID previously and it is not yet past the 90-days since your exposure, are you still eligible to receive the vaccine early?
Answer: We have no specific recommendations on this, other than our recommendation of NOT receiving the vaccine if you are currently infectious with COVID-19 and have not recovered. We do know there is some immunity after getting COVID-19, and it has been shown to last around 90 days. We would ABSOLUTELY honor someone's choice to not get the vaccine within their 90 day window.

Question: What are the risks and short/long term effects?
Answer: There are common short-term side effects such as injection site soreness and redness, muscle aches, headache, and even fever in some cases. These are totally normal and are pretty common among those receiving the vaccine. They typically disappear within 24 hours of getting the vaccine. I recommend someone read the ingredients before receiving the vaccine as well. Every administration site here is equipped with epi-pens and other supplies in case of anaphylaxis. We do not know enough yet about long-term effects. Visit vaccine safety from the CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html

Question: If I experience a bad reaction, what should I do?
Answer: After receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, you will be monitored for 15-30 minutes (depending on risk level). During that monitoring time, staff WILL assist you if you are having an anaphylactic reaction. Each pharmacy is equipped with supplies to handle this instance. Every instance of this is reported back to the CDC. You can also register for V-Safe for self-monitoring after receiving the vaccine: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

Question: Will there be a second vaccine dose available when it's time?
Answer: Yes! Your second dose will be administered by the same place you got your first dose.

Question: Can you address the recent concern that a vaccine might cause fertility issues?
Answer: There is limited data available on this. Currently, studies to include people who are pregnant are planned. Both manufacturers are also monitoring those who became pregnant after clinical trials. We know mRNA vaccines do not contain live virus and cannot interact with someone's DNA. Based on how they work, researchers don't believe the mRNA vaccines will pose a risk to the fetus. If someone has specific fertility concerns, I suggest they speak with

their healthcare provider if possible. Here is more info from the CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html

Further questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine? Please email them to chelseymarkle@arcsei.org.