

## **Lewistown Community Covid-19 Collaborative Vaccines**

- The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for two vaccines, the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine and the Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine.
- Covid-19 vaccines are mRNA vaccines which are a new type of vaccine to prevent infectious disease. Traditional vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies to cause an immune response. mRNA vaccines teach our cell to make specific proteins that trigger our immune response. This vaccine does NOT contain live or partial virus.
- Emergency Use Authorization is utilized because of the public health emergency caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. There has not been enough time for regular FDA approval, but EUA facilitates the vaccine being available as soon as possible to prevent Covid-19.
- The FDA issued the emergency authorization based on the evidence during clinical trials of the vaccines showing high efficacy (over 94%) and safety. They determined that the potential benefits outweigh the potential risks.
- Individuals may choose to receive or not receive the vaccine based on informed consent.
- Both the Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines are given by injection into the muscle. Both require two doses. The second Pfizer dose is given 21 days after the first injection. The second Moderna dose is given 28 days after the first injection.
- Vaccine distribution will be prioritized with frontline healthcare workers first, and residents of long term care facilities receiving access to the first available vaccines.
- Pfizer vaccinations began last week in Montana's largest hospitals.
- Right here in Central Montana, the Moderna Vaccine will be available for frontline healthcare workers this week!
- Estimates for the vaccine being available for the general public are Spring 2021.
- Those who have had severe allergic reactions to vaccines in the past are not recommended to receive the vaccine. Those with a current severe illness or fever should delay vaccination.
- The vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of developing Covid-19.
- It is not currently known how long immunity lasts after receiving the vaccine.
- Covid-19 vaccines protect against getting Covid-19, but we don't currently know if it prevents the spread of the sar-cov-2 virus which is the virus that causes Covid-19 infection.
- Hygiene, Masking, and Social Distancing measures remain to slow the spread!

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What continues to be a basic and most effective way to prevent the spread of disease? HANDWASHING!!**

*"The best way to prevent the spread of infection and decrease the risk of getting sick is by washing your hands with plain soap and water advises the CDC." Nov. 27, 2020 FDA*

#### **What are the key times to wash your hands?**

Before, during and after- preparing food.

Before and after- eating, caring for a sick person, treating a cut or wound, touching your eyes, nose or mouth, touching your mask, entering or leaving a public area, touching an item or surface that may be frequently touched by others.

After- using the bathroom, changing diapers, blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

**How should I wash my hands?** Wet your hands and lather your hands, backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds-which is longer than most think-you can hum the "Happy Birthday" song twice to gage the time. Rinse well under running water and either dry with a clean towel or allow to completely air dry.

**Can I use hand sanitizer?** If soap and water are not available, a 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer can be used. Rub the gel over all surfaces of your hands and continue to rub until dry which should take about 20 seconds.

**We live in a great Community! Let's work together!!**