



When Available

**DON'T WAIT,
VACCINATE**



COVID-19 Vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL VACCINE INFORMATION

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials and authorizes emergency vaccine use only when the expected benefits outweigh potential risks.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews all safety data before recommending any COVID-19 vaccine for use.
- FDA and CDC will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, to make sure even very rare side effects are identified.

What COVID-19 vaccines will be available to patients?

There are two types of vaccines:

- **Moderna** - which requires two doses spaced 28 days apart
- **Pfizer** - which requests two doses spaced 21 days apart

The vaccine administration will be rolled out to GRIC in phases. Those patients in high priority groups will be the first to receive vaccination.

What is a priority group?

Adults with high-risk medical conditions who possess risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness. This group includes with health concerns and Dialysis patients.

How is Gila River Health Care going to distribute the vaccine?

Phase 1a: Healthcare workers, Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) residents, Elders with health concerns, & Dialysis patients

- *Examples: Hospitals, Outpatient Providers, Home Health Care, EMS, Pharmacies, Public Health*

Phase 1b: Essential workers

- *Examples: Police, Firefighters, Corrections Officers, Education Sector, Food & Agriculture, Utilities, Transportation*

Phase 1c: Adults with high-risk medical conditions & Adults 65 and over

- *Examples: Obesity, Diabetes, COPD, Heart Condition, Chronic Kidney Disease, Cancer, Solid Organ Transplant, Sickle Cell Disease*

Note: that at this time neither Pfizer nor Moderna is applying for a Pediatric Indication for their vaccine.



What are benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines help your immune system fight infections faster and more effectively. When you get a vaccine, it sparks your immune response, helping your body fight off and remember the germ so it can attack it if the germ ever invades again. And since vaccines are made of very small amounts of weak or dead germs, they won't make you sick. Vaccines often provide long-lasting immunity to serious diseases without the risk of serious illness.

What are common known side effects?

COVID-19 vaccines are being tested in large clinical trials to assess their safety. However, it does take time, and more people getting vaccinated before we learn about very rare or long-term side effects. That is why safety monitoring will continue. The most common side effects after vaccination are mild. They include:

- Pain, swelling, or redness where the shot was given
- Mild fever
- Chills
- Feeling tired
- Headache
- Muscle and joint aches

Do the GRHC staff have vaccine administration training?

Yes, GRHC clinical staff have received information about COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization and safety, as well as general information about vaccine storage, handling, administration, and reporting.

COVID-19 VACCINE MYTHS DEBUNKED



Myth #1: The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe.

Fact: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. health officials implemented the Operation Warp Speed program as a means to push shorten the production times for the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has passed the safety data milestones required by FDA for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).Data demonstrates that the vaccine was well tolerated across all populations with over 43,000 participants enrolled; no serious safety concerns observed; the only Grade 3 adverse event greater than 2% in frequency was fatigue at 3.8% and headache at 2.0%. (CDC)

Myth #2: I already had COVID-19. I don’t need the vaccine?

Fact: Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before. (CDC)

Myth #3: The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe and effective because it was rapidly developed and tested.

Fact: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. health officials implemented the Operation Warp Speed program as a means to push shorten the production times for the COVID vaccine. Traditionally, vaccines take years to develop due to lack of funding or bureaucracy. This partnership, which includes components of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, and the Department of Defense – helped clear the path for an expedited production.

Myth #4: What if I want to wait to take the vaccine?


Fact: Since the first wave of vaccinations will be prioritized towards health-care workers and care patients, you may not get to take the vaccine immediately. However, if you have the chance to take the vaccine, do so. The sooner you take it, the sooner your immunity can build up against COVID-19 and help prevent further spread. (CDC)

Myth #5: I won't need to wear a mask after I get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Fact: It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. Also, while the vaccine may prevent you from getting sick, it is unknown at this time if you can still carry and transmit the virus to others. Until more is understood about how well the vaccine works, continuing with precautions such as mask-wearing and physical distancing will be important. (Mayo Clinic)

REFERENCES:

- www.CDC.gov
- www.FDA.gov
- www.vaccines.gov
- www.mayoclinic.gov



THE HUB

COVID+FLU Resource Center

For up to date information on available services at GRHC, visit the HUB at GRHC.ORG/HUB.



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www.mygilariver.com
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