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COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments Information and Resources

The PFF Medical Team is monitoring the development of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19.

Three vaccines have been approved for **Emergency Use Authorization** by the FDA. In accordance with **Recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation strongly encourages vaccination for COVID-19, as the benefits far outweigh the risks. To ensure that you are not part of the limited population for whom vaccination is not recommended at this time, reach out to your primary care physician and pulmonologist for more information.

COVID-19 variants have recently emerged around the world and in the U.S., and some of these strains of the virus are known to spread more easily. This may mean that for those who are exposed to these variants, immunity from a previous COVID-19 infection or from a COVID-19 vaccination may not be as effective at preventing infection, though more research needs to be done to fully understand the impact of the new COVID-19 variants.

People who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine should proceed with vaccination, as the currently authorized vaccines are highly effective in reducing the severity and spread of disease. Strategies that are known to reduce the spread of infection, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, and frequent hand washing, remain crucial in limiting the spread of COVID-19, especially as new variants of the disease are discovered.

For those who have been fully vaccinated for more than two weeks, the CDC has provided **interim recommendations** on visiting with other fully vaccinated people. It is important to continue to adhere to preventive measures when in public and with unvaccinated individuals.

Lung transplant recipients may have a lower immune response to the COVID-19 vaccine according to a **recent study** by Johns Hopkins University. While transplant patients had less antibody response to the first dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, the study is ongoing and additional information on second dose response is forthcoming. Vaccination is still recommended for post-transplant individuals, but they may not be as protected as the general population. Therefore, transplant recipients and those they live with should remain vigilant after vaccination and continue to take precautions to prevent infection from COVID-19. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's **video** on this study provides additional information.

You can access up-to-date information about vaccine types, authorized and recommended vaccines, and vaccines in Phase 3 clinical trials on the **Centers for Disease Control and**

Prevention (CDC) website, which will be updated as additional information is available. You can access other general information about vaccines for COVID-19 on the CDC's website [here](#).

To find out where vaccines will be available in your area, contact your physician, your healthcare facility, or your state department of public health. You can also use the **Vaccine Finder** tool to find additional locations in your community that have reported to the CDC that they offer the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the CDC, vaccine doses supplied for distribution using U.S. taxpayer dollars must be provided to the public at no cost. However, vaccination providers may charge a fee for administering the vaccine. A vaccine recipient's private insurance plan or public health plan may offer reimbursement for the vaccination provider's administration fee. If a vaccine recipient is uninsured, the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund should be able to assist with reimbursement.

In addition to vaccines approved to prevent coronavirus infection, there are a number of treatments for COVID-19 that have received a designation of Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the FDA. When there are no adequate, approved, or available alternatives to diagnose, treat, or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions, the FDA Commissioner may grant EUA status to a drug or device to allow patients to access medical products that are not yet approved, or whose use has only been approved to treat other conditions. You can learn more about EUAs and access information about all of the drugs and devices that currently have EUA status for the treatment of COVID-19 on the [FDA website](#).