CMTS COVID-19 Working Group Webinar: COVID-19 Vaccines for the Marine Transportation System Workforce

March 03, 2021

https://www.cmts.gov/topics/working_group
C19WG@cmts.gov
CMTS COVID-19 Working Group (C-19 WG) Webinar

**COVID-19 Vaccines for the Marine Transportation System Workforce**

To Join: [https://usdotfedramp.webex.com/meet/nuns.jain](https://usdotfedramp.webex.com/meet/nuns.jain)

If you cannot hear audio via your computer, please call in:
844-800-2712; Access Code: 199 302 1854 #

Please mute your phones and turn off your video when you are not speaking. To mute/unmute:
On computer- click the microphone icon next to your name.
On phone, press *6

During Q & A, please raise your hand or use the “Chat” feature on WebEx and select “Everyone” or “Helen Brohl” or “Nuns Jain”
COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation
Outline

• Vaccine prioritization and distribution
• Current COVID-19 vaccines
• Getting vaccinated
• Encouraging vaccination of workers
• Q & A
Vaccine prioritization and distribution
COVID-19 Vaccines Administered
As of March 2, 2021

Total Vaccine Doses Administered:
78,631,601

Available: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker
ACIP’s Origins and Role

- ACIP established in **1964** by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service
- Designated as a Federal Advisory Committee in 1972

**Role:** To provide advice and guidance to the CDC Director and the HHS Secretary on most effective means to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S. civilian population
  - Advises on population groups and/or circumstances in which a vaccine is recommended

- ACIP deliberations includes consideration of disease **epidemiology** and **burden of disease**, **vaccine efficacy** and **effectiveness**, **vaccine safety**, the **quality** of evidence reviewed, **economic analyses** and **implementation issues**

- CDC is the secretariat for ACIP, but ACIP is independent of CDC; Voting ACIP members are not CDC employees
Efficient Distribution. During a pandemic, efficient, expeditious, and equitable distribution and administration of authorized vaccine is critical.

Flexibility. Within national guidelines, state and local jurisdictions should have flexibility to administer vaccine based on local epidemiology and demand.
Overview of Groups Prioritized by ACIP

**Phase 1a**
- ✓ Healthcare personnel
- ✓ Long-term care facility residents

**Phase 1b**
- ✓ Frontline essential workers
- ✓ Persons aged 75 years and older

**Phase 1c**
- ✓ Persons aged 65-74 years
- ✓ Persons aged 16-64 years with high-risk conditions
- ✓ Essential workers not recommended in Phase 1b

**Phase 2**
- ✓ All people aged 16 years and older not in Phase 1 who are recommended for vaccination

Initiation of phases will be overlapping
# Essential Workers

## Frontline Essential Workers (~30M)
- First Responders (Firefighters, Police Officers)
- Education (Teachers, Support Staff, Daycare Workers)
- Food & Agricultural Workers
- Manufacturing Workers
- Corrections Officers
- U.S. Postal Service Workers
- Public Transit Workers
- Grocery Store Workers

## Other Essential Workers (~57M)
- Transportation & Logistics
- Food Service
- Shelter & Housing (Construction)
- Finance
- IT & Communication
- Energy
- Media
- Legal
- Public Safety (Engineers)
- Water & Wastewater

*Frontline Essential Workers: workers who are in sectors essential to the functioning of society and are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2*

Special Considerations and Challenges for Vaccination of Frontline Essential Workers

- Concerns about vaccine safety among some workers
- Need for culturally appropriate vaccination information in multiple languages
- Rural areas have limited access to health care and health providers
- Methods of communication may be different (e.g. radio, print)
- Rely on community leaders to serve as trusted sources for information
- Some missed days may occur due to post-vaccination side effects
- Critical infrastructure employers have an obligation to manage the continuation of work in a way that best protects the health of their workers and the general public
Special Considerations and Challenges for Vaccination of Frontline Essential Workers

- Large number of frontline workers
- State and local health authorities may need to sub-prioritize vaccination
- Workers may work in one state but live in another
- Coordination and planning for if, where, and when staff are eligible and can be vaccinated
  - Possible use of worksites to administer vaccine
- Transient workforces or workers whose jobs involve interstate transportation may have difficulty getting 2\textsuperscript{nd} dose
Sub-prioritization Considerations*

Where sub-prioritization of **frontline essential workers** is needed due to limited vaccine supply, consider:

- Workers in locations where high rates of transmission and/or outbreaks have occurred
- Workers who are at increased risk for severe illness based on age or underlying medical conditions**

*https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/phased-implementation.html

**Self-identified medical conditions
COVID-19 Vaccines Under FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs)

- Three vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) from the FDA:
  - **Pfizer/BioNTech**: 2 doses given at least 21 days apart
  - **Moderna**: 2 doses given at least 28 days apart
  - **Johnson & Johnson/Janssen**: 1 dose

- All three vaccines were tested in tens of thousands of adults from diverse backgrounds, including older adults and communities of color.

  *All of the available vaccines have been proven effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 disease.*

- It is unknown how long protection from vaccines might last.

Sources:
## COVID-19 Vaccine Platforms

### mRNA
- **Pfizer-BioNTech**
  - Two doses 3 weeks apart
  - mRNA with lipid nanoparticle
  - EUA issued Dec 2020
  - Transported at -70°C
  - High (~95%) VE

- **Moderna**
  - Two doses 4 weeks apart
  - mRNA with lipid nanoparticle
  - EUA issued Dec 2020
  - Transported at -20°C
  - High (~94%) VE

### Adenovirus Vector
- **Janssen/JnJ**
  - One dose
  - Human adenovirus 26 vector
  - Transported at 2-8°C
  - Phase III trial ongoing

- **AstraZeneca**
  - Two doses 4 weeks apart
  - Chimp adenovirus vector
  - Transported at 2-8°C
  - Phase III trial ongoing
  - Approved in UK
  - Prelim VE (SD/SD) ~62%
  - Pooled VE with LD/SD ~70%

### Protein Subunit
- **Novavax**
  - Two doses 3 weeks apart
  - Nanoparticle vaccine with Matrix-M1 adjuvant
  - Transported at 2-8°C
  - Phase III trial ongoing
What are messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines?

- Carry genetic material that teaches our cells how to make a harmless piece of “spike protein,” which is found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
  - Genetic material from the vaccine is destroyed by our cells once copies of the spike protein are made and it is no longer needed.
- Cells display this piece of spike protein on their surface, and an immune response is triggered inside our bodies. This produces antibodies to protect us from getting infected if the SARS-CoV-2 virus enters our bodies.

Sources: College of Physicians of Philadelphia. What is an mRNA vaccine? [Link](https://historyofvaccines.blog/2020/07/29/what-is-an-mrna-vaccine/)

JAMA. COVID-19 and mRNA Vaccines—First Large Test for a New Approach. [Link](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2770485)
mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

- Like all vaccines, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have been rigorously tested for safety before being authorized for use in the United States.
- mRNA technology is new, but not unknown, and has been studied for more than 10 years.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus and do not carry a risk of causing disease in the vaccinated person.
- mRNA from the vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell and does not affect or interact with a person’s DNA.
Fast-tracking COVID-19 vaccines while ensuring safety

- mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were developed based on years of research.
- Researchers used existing networks to conduct COVID-19 vaccine trials.
- Manufacturing began while clinical trials are still underway. Normally, manufacturing doesn’t begin until after completion of the trials.
- mRNA vaccines are faster to produce than traditional vaccines.
- FDA and CDC are prioritizing review and authorization of COVID-19 vaccines.

*For more information, visit the COVID-19 Prevention Network: www.coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org/about-covpn
COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all vaccines.

**Before Authorization**

- FDA carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials.
- ACIP reviews all safety data before recommending use.

**After Authorization**

- FDA and CDC closely monitor vaccine safety and side effects. There are systems in place that allow CDC and FDA to watch for safety issues.


3/3/21
Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine: Considerations for Utilization

Where?
- Mobile/pop-up clinics
- Newly established vaccine administration sites
- Sites that do not have freezer capacity (e.g. adult HCP offices)

Who?
- People who want to be fully vaccinated quickly
- People who don’t want to return or can’t return for a second dose
- Mobile populations or homebound populations
Key Facts about COVID-19 Vaccination

Getting vaccinated can help prevent you from getting sick with COVID-19

People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated

COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests*


Protect Yourself, Your Family, Your Friends, Your Co-workers, and Your Community.

Get vaccinated.

- Choose to get vaccinated when it is offered.
- Participate in v-safe and help CDC monitor for any health effects after vaccination.
- Share your experience with coworkers, friends, and family.
- Know the basics about the COVID-19 vaccine. Help answer questions from your family and friends.
- Show you received the vaccine by wearing a sticker or button prominently.
COVID-19 Vaccination Is a Safer Way to Build Protection

- Getting the virus that causes COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as an “antibody” or “immunity.”
  - However, experts don’t know how long this protection lasts.
- The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity.
- COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by building immunity without the risk of severe illness.
## What to Expect Before, During, and After COVID-19 Vaccination

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<th>Before</th>
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| - Learn about COVID-19 vaccines.  
- See if COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for you. | - Read the fact sheet that tells you about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you receive.  
- Receive a vaccination record card. | - Expect some side effects.  
- Enroll in v-safe.  
- Continue using all the measures to protect yourself and others. |

V-safe is a new CDC smart-phone based monitoring program for COVID-19 vaccine safety:

- Uses text messaging and web surveys to check in with vaccine recipients after vaccination.
- Participants can report any side effects or health problems after COVID-19 vaccination.
- Includes active telephone follow-up by CDC for reports of significant health impact.
Vaccination is One Measure to Help Stop the Pandemic

- While COVID-19 vaccines appear to be highly effective, additional preventive tools remain important to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Both getting a vaccine and following CDC recommendations to protect yourself and others offer the best protection from COVID-19.
  - Cover your nose and mouth with a mask.
  - Stay at least 6 feet from people who don’t live with you.
  - Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
  - Wash your hands.
Public health recommendations for vaccinated persons

- Protection from vaccine is not immediate; vaccine is a 2-dose series and will take 1 to 2 weeks following the second dose to be considered fully vaccinated

- No vaccine is 100% effective

- Given the currently limited information on how well the vaccine works in the general population; how much it may reduce disease, severity, or transmission; and how long protection lasts, vaccinated persons should continue to follow all current guidance to protect themselves and others, including:
  - Wearing a mask
  - Staying at least 6 feet away from others
  - Avoiding crowds
  - Washing hands often
  - Following CDC travel guidance
  - Following any applicable workplace or school guidance

Quarantine recommendations for most vaccinated persons

- Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:
  - Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
  - Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
  - Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

- Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure

- Vaccinated persons who develop symptoms should be evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated

- These recommendations will be updated when more data become available and additional COVID-19 vaccines are authorized
CDC Resources

Learn more with CDC’s COVID-19 vaccine tools and resources. Find information for COVID-19 vaccine administration, storage, reporting, patient education, and more.

- For Healthcare Professionals: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/index.html

COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkits
- Medical Centers, Clinics, and Clinicians
- Long-Term Care Facilities
- Community-Based Organizations
- Essential Workers
Encouraging Vaccination of Workers
Workplace Vaccination Program

- Employers considering implementing a workplace COVID-19 vaccination program should contact the **health department in their jurisdiction** for guidance.
- The planning process should include input from management, human resources, employees, and labor representatives.
- Other important preliminary steps include:
  - Obtaining senior management support
  - Identifying a vaccine coordinator
  - Enlisting expertise from local public health authorities, occupational health providers, and pharmacies
- Offer the vaccination at no charge and during work hours.
- Offer flexible paid leave policies for those workers that may experience post-vaccination symptoms.

Encourage Employees to Get Vaccinated

- If your business can’t offer COVID-19 vaccinations on site, encourage employees to seek COVID-19 vaccination in their community and provide them with information about where they can get the vaccine.
  - Be flexible in your human resources policies. Establish policies that allow employees to take paid leave to seek COVID-19 vaccination in the community. Support transportation to off-site vaccination clinics.
  - Use promotional posters/flyers to advertise locations offering COVID-19 vaccination in the community. Display posters about COVID-19 vaccination in break rooms, cafeterias, and other high traffic areas.
  - Post articles in company communications (e.g., newsletters, intranet, emails, portals) about the importance of COVID-19 vaccination and where to get the vaccine in the community.

Vaccine confidence is the trust that patients, parents, or providers have in:

- recommended vaccines;
- providers who administer vaccines; and
- processes and policies that lead to vaccine development, licensure, manufacturing, and recommendations for use.
COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Essential Workers

This toolkit will help your organization educate community members about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and address common questions and concerns.

- Key messages
- Slide deck
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Posters/Flyers
- Newsletter Content
- Letter to Members
- Social Media Content

Thank you

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
Q & A

• If you have a question, please raise your hand or use the “Chat” feature on WebEx and select “Everyone” or “Helen Brohl” or “Nuns Jain”

• Please mute your phones and turn off your video when you are not speaking. To mute/unmute:
  On computer- click the microphone icon next to your name.
  On phone, press *6
Additional CDC Resources on COVID-19
Crew Webpage: Coping with Stress during COVID-19

Coping with Stress Aboard a Vessel During COVID-19

Be Informed. Make Healthy Choices. Connect with Others.

Updated May 11, 2020

Pandemics Can Be Stressful

Coping with stress in a healthy way will make you, the people you care about, and your fellow crew stronger. You may experience increased stress during this pandemic. Fear and anxiety about a new disease and what could happen can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions. Learn more about healthy ways to cope with stress.

Take Care of your Mental Health

- Be Informed—facts about COVID-19.
- Make Healthy Choices—tips for managing stress onboard a vessel.
- How Can I Protect Myself from COVID-19?
- Mental Health Resources
- Connect with Others—tips for making social connections during COVID-19.
- FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)—info about mental health concerns while aboard a vessel.

Ship Status

Information about your ship’s status and what it means.

Ship Guidance

Cruise Ship Guidance During the Period of the No Sail Order
Cargo Ship Guidance ##

Disembarkation

What to know if considering disembarkation
- Cruise Ships
- Other Vessels
Additional CDC Resources on COVID-19

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 Testing Overview

Test for Current Infection

COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19
https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html

Maritime Resources
https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/index.html
CMTS COVID-19 Working Group Resources

COVID-19 Working Group Website
https://www.cmts.gov/topics/working_group

COVID-19 Working Group Resource Catalogs
COVID 19 Federal Guidance And References For The U S Maritime Industry
COVID 19 Best Management Practices For The U S Maritime Industry
Mental Health Resources For U S Merchant Mariners And Critical Workforce In The MTS

For questions or comments on the above three catalogs, please contact:
C19WG@cmts.gov
The CMTS COVID-19 Working Group encourages mariners from all segments of the U.S. maritime industry to take ten minutes to anonymously complete the “Mariner Mental Health Needs during Covid-19” online survey at https://redcap.link/mariners.

Mariner unions, vessel operators, vessel owners, mariner training institutions and industry associations are requested to encourage and facilitate the prompt participation of their mariners in this survey. MTS stakeholders are requested to widely distribute this announcement within the U.S. maritime industry.

For survey details, download the flier here or at https://www.cmts.gov.
THANK YOU!

Please forward any input or questions for the Covid-19 Working Group to

C19WG@cmts.gov