Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

WHO WILL GET THE VACCINE FIRST?

The vaccine should arrive Dec 22 or Dec 23. The Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center has prioritized vaccinating Elders, front line health workers, and first responders. Our Elders are our highest risk group for serious complications from COVID 19. Our first responders and front-line health care workers have the highest risk of exposure and the greatest increased potential to transmit to others who are at higher risk.

As soon as we have our priority population vaccinated we will vaccinate staff who work with the youth and then start with all staff, enterprise staff and community as more shipments become available.

HOW DID THE COVID 19 VACCINE GET PRODUCED SO QUICKLY AND IS IT SAFE?

The FDA and CDC prioritized the review, authorization and recommendation of COVID-19 vaccines to accelerate the manufacturing of the vaccine under an emergency use authorization.

The COVID 19 vaccine has been held to the same safety standards as all other vaccines. When the vaccine is received it will have been approved by the FDA. The FDA will approve a vaccine only if it's safe, effective, and the benefits outweigh the risk. Even though the vaccine will be approved research will continue on the long-term benefits and side effects.

WHO CAN GET THE VACCINE?

The COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for the use in **adults 18 years of age and older**. Those with severe anaphylactic allergies should consult their primary care provider prior to receiving the vaccine.

HOW MANY DOSES OF VACCINE DO I NEED TO GET AND WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

The vaccine is an mRNA vaccine that requires two-doses separated by 28 days. mRNA vaccines do not give us COVID-19. After receiving the vaccine, you can still get infected with COVID 19. Getting the vaccine may help prevent serous complications or hospitalizations related to getting COVID-19.

At this time the CDC still recommends continued masking and social distancing even if you are vaccinated, so the current safety measures will remain in place.

Side effects are common and expected after the vaccine, especially the second dose. These side effect may include fever, headache and muscle aches. No significant safety concerns were identified in the clinical trials.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Wellness Center at 360-273-5504 and speak with a nurse, Meghan Walker or the Health Director, Denise Walker.

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