

COVID -19 Vaccine Q&A

Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer



Will the COVID-19 Vaccine be Safe?

- Safety is a top priority. LOTS of eyes are watching. The U.S. vaccine safety system is **strong and robust**. The development of the COVID-19 vaccine was accelerated due to the initial **\$10 billion investment** from the U.S. government which took the financial risk off of manufacturers.
- Clinical trials are following **strict protocols**. No steps are being skipped, and no short-cuts taken. By the time a drug or vaccine has gone through 3 phases of clinical trials, it has been tested on **thousands** of people.

COVID-19 Distribution

- Once the **FDA authorizes** use of COVID-19 vaccine(s), limited quantities will be available in St. Clair County.
- At first, vaccine distribution will be limited to and prioritized to **frontline workers and residents of long-term care facilities**. Next will be essential workers. Then, the vaccine will likely go to high-risk populations such as those with high-risk medical complications and adults 65+.

Priority Groups

- **Phase 1A** includes paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents of long-term care facilities.
- **Phase 1B** includes workers in essential and critical industries, including workers with unique skill sets such as non-hospital or non-public health laboratories and mortuary services.
- **Phase 1C** includes people at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions, and people 65 years and older.
- **Phase 2** is a mass vaccination campaign for all individuals 16 years and older.

Notification of Vaccine Availability

- As St. Clair County moves through the distribution phases, the St. Clair County Health Department will inform the public via press release, Facebook live, SCCHD YouTube channel, and www.scchealth.co.

What to Expect the “Day-of” Vaccination

- You may not get to “**choose**” which manufacturer's vaccine you receive.
- Of the five major vaccines currently close to completion, four of them require two doses. First and second doses must be from the same manufacturer. Time between doses may vary. **It is important to get both doses!**
- In clinical trials, 2-10% of those receiving the vaccines experienced side effects ranging from **high fever, fatigue, joint and muscle aches, and headaches to just redness at the injection site.**

Additional Resources

- [St. Clair County Health Department](#)
- [Michigan Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services: Operation Warp Speed](#)
- [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#)