WHAT IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- The first supply of COVID-19 vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began being distributed in the U.S. on December 14, 2020.
- At this time, two vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, have been authorized for distribution.
- The vaccine is given as an injection into the upper arm muscle. The vaccine requires two doses approximately 3-4 weeks apart to achieve 94%-95% effectiveness.
- You must receive the same vaccine for both doses and will be notified of which vaccine will be available for your facility.
- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has carefully reviewed both vaccines and recommended their use.
- We do not know how long protection will last following vaccination. Follow up studies about the length of immunity are being conducted right now.

Laborers Local 773
Menard Correctional Center
Major Maynard Hudson

"History has taught us that vaccines have made many infectious diseases a thing of the past. We've come to expect that public health and modern science can conquer most to all viruses, but misinformation or distrust of vaccines can be like any virus and spread as fast as COVID-19 itself. We as public servants and frontline staff have a responsibility to lead by example for all to follow."

AFSCME Local 1866
Stateville Correctional Center
Union President Ralph Portwood

"The COVID-19 Vaccine is going to help us return to normal life. As a leader, I believe it is important for us to be a part of the wave of essential employees to be vaccinated. This vaccine is a tool for all of us frontline employees to defend ourselves against this virus."

IDOC staff have worked selflessly to carry forward our mission throughout the pandemic. We thank you for your courage, commitment and professionalism.

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State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Corrections

Vaccination Guide

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

NOW is the time!

You are strongly encouraged to receive this life-saving vaccine to protect yourself and others against COVID-19.

For more information:

WWW2.ILLINOIS.GOV/IDOC/COVID19RESPONSE

Email Questions To:

IDOC.COVID@ILLINOIS.GOV

WHEN AND HOW CAN I GET MY VACCINE?

- Medical and mental health staff at IDOC facilities have been given priority status for vaccination in the first phase of the State's vaccine rollout. All other facility staff, as well as the incarcerated population, are included in the second phase.
- It is anticipated that vaccines will be available for all staff and men and women in custody at the end of January or beginning of February.
- You will be notified by your supervisor regarding the exact dates for the vaccinations.
- Vaccines will be distributed by IDOC, IDPH, the local health department, a local pharmacy, or National Guard.
- Vaccinations may be provided on or off-site.
- Employees will receive paid time when there is a need to stay beyond normal work shifts, come in early prior to work shifts, or come in on a regularly scheduled day off to receive the vaccine.
- You will receive two consent forms (one for each vaccine dose) for completion, which should be returned as soon as possible to your Warden.

For more information:

WWW2.ILLINOIS.GOV/IDOC/COVID19RESPONSE

Email Questions To:

IDOC.COVID@ILLINOIS.GOV

IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

- Yes. Please visit the CDC website for more information about the safety of the vaccines.
- The vaccine has been authorized for distribution through a rigorous scientific and regulatory process.
- Large, multi-step clinical trials by Pfizer and Moderna enrolled more than 70,000 people.
- Clinical trials have found that the Pfizer vaccine is safe for individuals 16 years of age and older and 95% effective. Clinical trials have found that the Moderna vaccine is 94% effective for individuals 18 years and older.
- After a vaccine is authorized or approved for use, vaccine safety monitoring systems watch for adverse events and side effects. Those results are reported directly to the CDC.
- Upon receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, you cannot become infected because the vaccine contains no live virus. Instead, the vaccine prompts your body to produce a protein that teaches your body how to fight off the virus.
- The COVID-19 vaccine may cause mild symptoms, such as brief pain at the injection site, fever, headache, and muscle aches. These symptoms represent the immune system's natural reaction to the vaccine.
- While serious allergic reactions were not seen in vaccine clinical trials of thousands of patients, rare allergic reactions to vaccines are possible.
- If you have a history of serious allergic reactions, you should discuss vaccination with your healthcare provider.
- Everyone who receives the vaccination will be observed for at least 15 minutes after receiving the vaccination.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

WILL THE VACCINE BE REQUIRED?

No. The vaccine is voluntary.

WHAT WILL THE VACCINE COST ME?

Nothing. Vaccines will be available at no cost despite ability to pay or insurance coverage.

WHO SHOULD NOT RECEIVE OR DELAY IN RECEIVING A VACCINE?

Consult with your doctor as to whether you should receive the vaccine if you:

- Had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine or any ingredient of this vaccine

You should delay vaccination if:

- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- You have a fever or other illness on the day of the clinic.
- You received a vaccination for flu within the last 14 days.

You should consult with your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or breastfeeding

IF I HAVE ALREADY HAD COVID-19 AND RECOVERED, DO I STILL NEED TO GET VACCINATED?

The CDC recommends the vaccine even for those who have previously been COVID-19 positive. The vaccine may provide longer lasting immunity than having had the disease.

WILL I CONTINUE MASKING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING AFTER VACCINATION?

Yes. COVID-19 is still circulating widely in our communities. Everyone must remain vigilant with mask, PPE and social distancing requirements to ensure the safety of everyone who lives and works in our facilities.