

COVID-19 Vaccine: Talking points for staff to use with callers/patients

- It's exciting to hear about progress toward a COVID-19 vaccine. You may have heard about two vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) that are showing great promise in clinical trials with a 95% effectiveness result.
- Before any vaccine can be administered, it must receive Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA and the CDC must issue formal recommendations about which groups will get the vaccine first. We are anticipating this process will be complete sometime in December 2020.
- It's important to understand that recommendations for which groups receive the vaccine first are decided at the federal level (FDA, CDC)
 - The first phase of vaccine distribution will focus on frontline health care workers in patient service with the highest risk of exposure.
 - The intent is to keep as many healthcare workers healthy and available to care for patients.
- It is unknown exactly how long the first phase of vaccine distribution to frontline healthcare workers will last. The next phase to follow will expand to other essential workers and high-risk patients.
- This means that **we do not anticipate the COVID-19 vaccine will be widely available to patients/general public until Spring 2021 or later.**
- We want to be able to get this vaccine to our patients as quickly as possible. As production of the vaccines increases to the point of being widely available, we will be sure to communicate widely and frequently with our patients and our community.
- Are you signed up with MyChart? We will likely send a notification via MyChart when vaccine appointments become available, likely in the spring 2021 or later. If you are not signed up, you can do so at uwhealth.org/mychart.
- If you are interested in reading more about the vaccine, in addition to our website uwhealth.org/covid, two great sources are the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [WI Dept of Health Services](https://www.wisconsin.gov/health).