FAQs for COVID-19 Vaccines

1. **Is the FDA going to grant an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine?**
   Yes. We expect the FDA to approve both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines under an Emergency Use Authorization sometime in mid to late December.

2. **What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?**
   In an emergency, like a pandemic, it may not be possible to have all the evidence that the FDA would usually have before approving a drug, device, or a test.

   When there is a declared emergency, the FDA can make a judgment that it's worth releasing something for use even without all the evidence that would fully establish its effectiveness and safety. If there's evidence that strongly suggests that patients have benefited from a treatment or test, the agency can issue an EUA to make it available.

3. **Are the COVID-19 vaccines rigorously tested?**
   Yes. Clinical trials are evaluating investigational COVID-19 vaccines in tens of thousands of study participants to generate the scientific data and other information needed by the FDA to determine safety and effectiveness. These clinical trials are being conducted according to the rigorous standards set forth by the FDA.

4. **Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?**
   Before the FDA grants Emergency Use Authorization, the safety and efficacy of the vaccines will be reviewed by panels of independent experts retained by the companies; by FDA scientific staff; and by an independent panel of experts convened by the FDA.

   The CDC and the FDA will continue to monitor individuals who have received the vaccine to ensure there's no evidence of even rare safety issues.

   Please keep in mind that COVID-19 can be a fatal or debilitating disease, even in young, healthy people. The risks from contracting the virus are far greater than the possible small risks from receiving the vaccine
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5. **Should I get the vaccine if I am immunocompromised?**
   If you are immunocompromised or have other health conditions, please discuss whether you should receive the vaccination with your personal physician. Since

none of the COVID-19 vaccines contain live virus, they generally are felt to be safe in immunocompromised patients.

6. **Since I have a history of serious allergic reactions, should I get the vaccine?**
   There have been a few cases in the UK of individuals experiencing an allergic reaction after receiving the vaccine. If you have a history of serious allergic reactions, please discuss whether you should receive the vaccination with your personal physician.

7. **Is it safe for a pregnant or breastfeeding woman to get the vaccine?**
   There is currently limited data available on the use of this vaccine in pregnant or breastfeeding women. According to the information from Pfizer's EUA documents in the UK, if you are breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before you receive this vaccine.

8. **How do the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines work?**
   Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines use novel messenger-RNA technology, which uses genetic material to cause the body to create a protein from the virus. The immune system then recognizes the virus and attacks it.

   Independent boards of experts looked at the placebo and vaccine participants and reported that the vaccines are 95% effective. See links at the bottom for further information.

9. **Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?**
   It is not possible to get COVID-19 from vaccines. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use only a gene from the virus while other vaccines being studied use inactivated virus. None of these can cause COVID-19.

10. **How long will it take for the vaccine to begin protecting me?**
    It normally takes about two to three weeks for cellular immunity to develop and several weeks for a full antibody response.

11. **How many doses of a COVID-19 vaccine will I need?**
    Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines awaiting FDA-approval will require two doses. The Pfizer vaccine requires a booster 21 days later and the Moderna vaccine requires a second dose 28 days later. The different vaccine products are not to be interchangeable. The second dose must be completed with the same vaccine brand as the first dose. Both doses are important to ensure full protection.

12. **Will the vaccine be effective if the second dose is missed?**
    No. The vaccine will not be effective unless both vaccines are administered.

13. **When will Kettering Health Network receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**
    Based on information from Governor DeWine, an allocation of the Moderna vaccine will be shipped to health care systems the week of December 22. This allocation is to be used for those who routinely work with COVID-19 patients. We are working with the state of Ohio to better understand how the vaccine will be allocated to our personnel. Once the allocation number is determined, plans will be made to offer the vaccination to personnel who are most at risk.

14. **What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?**
    Both Pfizer and Moderna have stated that some Phase III clinical trial participants experienced mild-to-moderate side effects. The researchers stated that the vaccine may cause mild flu-like side effects, including sore arms, muscle aches, and fever. Medical experts are recommending that individuals take ibuprofen or acetaminophen before getting the vaccine. This will help to significantly alleviate the side effects. Study participants did not take pain relievers before their vaccines.

    As a precaution, eligible employees are encouraged to receive the vaccine on a day adjacent to a day off, to better recover from any possible side effects.

15. **Should I social distance and wear a mask after getting the vaccine?**
    Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask and staying at least six feet away from others, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

16. **How much will the vaccine cost?**
    There is no charge to get the COVID-19 vaccine that is distributed from the Kettering Health Network allocation.

17. **Are there other vaccines being studied?**
    AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, are also working on a vaccine but using different technology for delivering the viral genes that can produce viral proteins to activate the immune system.

    Novavax and the Sanofi/GlaxoSmithKline are working on a vaccine that uses proteins themselves to trigger an immune response. All are close to completing their testing. For up-to-date information on all the vaccines, please see testing of their shots. To track the vaccine trials, please see this updated tracker in the New York Times.

18. **Will getting the vaccine end the pandemic?**
    In the short term, no. The soonest that COVID-19 vaccines could become widely available to the public would be in the spring. But if effective vaccines become available—and if most people get them—the spread of the pandemic could drastically shrink. This means we are one giant step closer to getting our lives back to normal.

19. **Other Helpful Resources**
    Learn all about COVID-19 vaccines in development and vaccination planning in the United States and Ohio.
    - CDC General COVID-19 Vaccine Information
    - FDA COVID-19 Vaccine Information
    - Ohio Department of Health Vaccine Information
    - Pfizer Coronavirus Vaccine
    - Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine