Health Advisory

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Approval: Information for Clinicians

December 15, 2020

Situational Update: Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine

- The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) of the FDA voted to recommend approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (12/10/2020).
- The FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the vaccine (12/11/2020).
- The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Vaccination Practices (ACIP) confirmed the safety and efficacy of the vaccine and issued an interim recommendation for use of the vaccine in persons aged ≥16 years for the prevention of COVID-19 (12/12/2020).
- The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup endorsed the decisions of VRBPAC and ACIP and recommended use of the vaccine in California and other states (12/12/2020).
- The first 12,675 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine are expected to reach San Francisco this week and will be distributed to facilities in accordance with Phase 1A allocation guidelines published by the California Department of Public Health. Additional doses are expected to arrive during the weeks to follow.

Situational Update: Moderna Vaccine

- A similar cascade of review, approval, and distribution is expected to begin this week for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, starting with evaluation by VRBPAC on 12/17/2020.

Additional Information from CDC

CDC is rapidly updating its websites for healthcare professionals with key information about COVID-19 vaccination. Of particular interest:

- Slide Deck: What Clinicians Need to Know about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine
- Website on Pfizer-BioNTech product
- Preparing to Vaccinate: Healthcare Professionals: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination
- Toolkit: COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit
• ACIP Prioritization of Phase 1A Vaccine Supply: Interim Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel and Long-Term Care Facility Residents

• Guidance: Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel

• Main COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical Resources Page

Keep an eye out (and sign up) for CDC’s Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinars. For example yesterday’s event focused on Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine safety. Slides and recordings of events are posted on the COCA site if you weren’t able to attend the event.

Additional Information from SFDPH

SFDPH will post additional information for San Francisco clinicians about COVID-19 vaccination at www.sfcdcp.org/covidvax. Check back for:

• A detailed protocol and clinical FAQ for administration of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, that can be adapted for use by local facilities (currently in development and will be posted soon).

• Info for outpatient providers about signing up to become a COVID-19 vaccination provider and how to obtain vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination information for the general public is available at https://SF.gov/covidvax.