



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.sfcddp.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>.