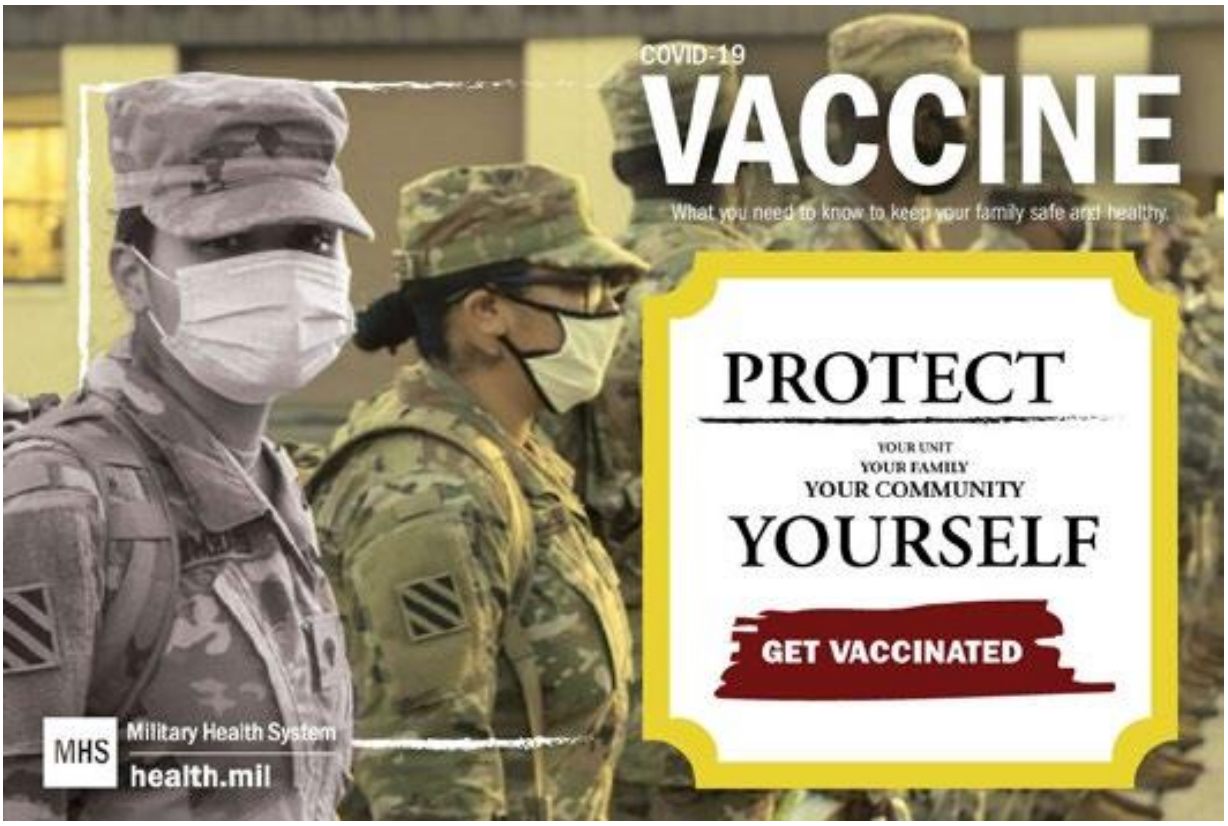
Key points about the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA COVID-19 vaccine & DoD Distribution:



Vaccines fight disease by producing an immune response within the body. Sometimes that means flu-like symptoms, such as aches, headache and fever. This is normal and a sign that your body is creating antibodies to protect you from COVID-19. DoD prioritization will be derived from the data-driven, national prioritization to help ensure fair and equitable access to everyone, especially groups that are disproportionally affected by the pandemic.

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under **Emergency Use Authorization** has authorized the use of the **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine** that will be given in a two-dose series separated by 21 days. **Vaccines from different manufacturers that may become available later will NOT be interchangeable**. The vaccine recipient

must receive the same vaccine for both doses. Talk to your provider to ensure you get the right dose at the right time.

- All vaccine recipients will be provided a copy of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card after receipt of the vaccine. It is recommended that the second-dose appointment be made at the time of initial vaccinations, or instructions provided on procedures for second dose follow-up.
- The Department of Defense (DoD) remains committed to protecting our Service members, civilian employees, and families; safeguarding our national security capabilities; and supporting the whole-of nation response to the pandemic. The end-state is that DoD is able to reduce the burden of COVID-19 disease in high-risk populations and simultaneously mitigate risk to military operations
- Early in the COVID-19 vaccination program, there will be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination distribution prioritization within DoD will be consistent with data-driven CDC guidance for national prioritization.
- **Prioritized DoD personnel are highly encouraged to take the vaccine** to protect their health, their families, their community, and lower the public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Vaccines authorized for emergency use (EUA) are offered on a voluntary basis.**
- If you are in need of other immunizations or have recently received other vaccines, **be sure to tell your provider** so they can determine when you can safely receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

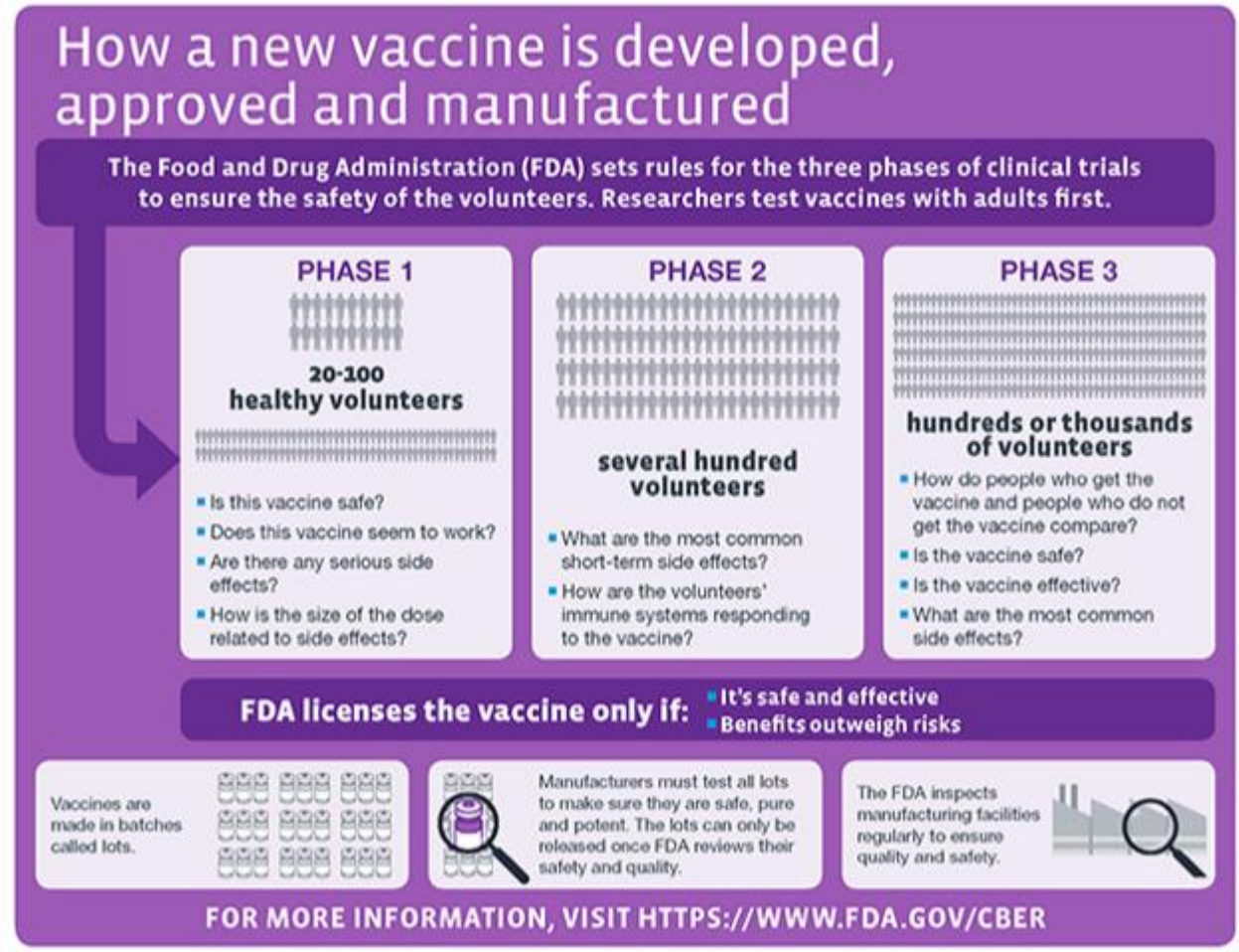
Vaccine Priorities:

Getting the vaccine is voluntary, but all DoD personnel are encouraged to get it to protect their health, their families and their community. Early in the COVID-19 vaccination program, there will be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine(s) and vaccine distribution priorities will focus on:

- Health care workers and emergency services personnel
- Personnel performing activities associated with critical national capabilities
- Select deploying individuals
- Other critical and essential support
- Individuals at the highest risk for developing severe illness from

COVID-19

Vaccines will be offered to Madigan patients, including military family members and retirees as more vaccines are available and *after* prioritized groups and individuals have been vaccinated.



Vaccine Safety:

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under Emergency Use Authorization has authorized the use of a COVID-19 vaccine after careful and rigorous testing and trials.
- None of the factors that contributed to the accelerated development of a COVID-19 vaccine imply that safety, scientific or ethical integrity are compromised, or that short-cuts have been made.
- DoD has full confidence in the safety, and efficacy of vaccine(s) and transparency in the latest vaccine(s) information.

Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA):

- Drugs and vaccines have to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that only safe and effective products are available to the American public. During public health emergencies, when there is good scientific reason to believe that a product is safe and is likely to treat or prevent disease, the FDA may authorize its use through an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), even if definitive proof of the effectiveness of the drug or vaccine is not known. FDA pre-licensure approval is considered for treatment or prevention of diseases that are very serious.
- In public health emergencies, such as a pandemic, the vaccine development process may be atypical. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, investments and partnerships by the U.S. government have prioritized development and distribution of the most promising vaccines that have met the FDA's rigorous and science-based standards for quality, safety, and effectiveness.
- COVID-19 vaccines are rigorously tested for safety and efficacy during the development process. The FDA then undertakes a comprehensive review of all accumulated safety and manufacturing data from the manufacturer to determine if it adequately ensures product quality and consistency before authorizing its use.

Source: FDA. Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines Explained. https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines/emergency-use-authorization-vaccines-explained