TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION HEALTH CARE

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Public Health News:

COVID-19 Vaccine has Arrived on the Tohono O'odham Nation

Emergency Use Authorization has been approved for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. TONHC has been approved as a vaccination site and has received an initial shipment of the Moderna vaccine. As supply allows, the vaccine will be made available in phases based on the CDC guidelines and Arizona Department of Health Services priority system. Vaccination is currently underway for frontline health care providers, medicine men and women, and first responders. Please see below for answers to frequently asked questions:

Is the Moderna vaccine effective? The Moderna vaccine has been shown to be very effective. In the clinical trial, 94% of the people who received the Moderna vaccine were protected against COVID-19 disease. *This vaccine is more than TWICE as effective as the flu vaccine.*

Is the Moderna vaccine safe? The Moderna vaccine demonstrated an excellent safety profile during the clinical trial. Mild to moderate side effects were noted by 30% of people and included fever, muscle aches, headache and fatigue that resolved in 24-48 hours. Severe side effects were rare and no major safety concerns were identified by regulatory bodies. If you have concerns about whether or not you should receive the vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider.

How is the vaccine given? The Moderna vaccine requires 2 injections into the upper arm. The injections are given 4 weeks apart.

Am I eligible to receive the vaccine if I have already tested positive for COVID-19? Yes, you may receive the vaccine as long as 10 days have passed and you have recovered from the illness.

Will I have to pay for the vaccine? No, the COVID-19 vaccine is free.

Can I get a flu vaccine at the same time? No, the recommendation is to have at least 14 days between COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccinations. TONHC recommends that you schedule your flu vaccine at least 14 days before or after a planned COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

TONHC and TO Nation EOC will share vaccine scheduling information as we

progress through each phase on the priority list. We will continue to provide announcements with answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the vaccine and the priory list. Our goal is to be transparent with the public regarding vaccine information and availability.

We are all very hopeful that vaccination to prevent COVID-19 will help stop the spread of the virus in the near future. The vaccine will be most effective once a large majority of the population is vaccinated.

Right now it remains very important for each person to continue the basic safety measures which will help stop the spread today. Please do everything you can to help keep yourself and others safe!
   - Wear a mask in public
   - Stay more than 6 feet away from others
   - Clean your hands frequently with soap/water or alcohol based sanitizer
   - Avoid large and small gatherings of people outside of your household