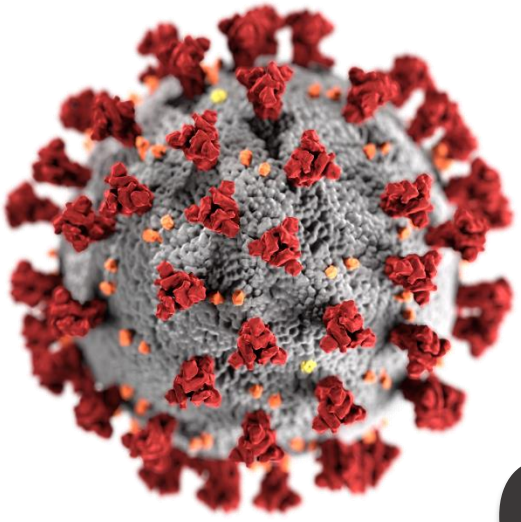

COVID-19 Vaccination:

Frequently Asked Questions

Revision Date (12/07/2020)

TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Stay informed. Stay healthy.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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General COVID Questions:

- **Can people who have already been positive for COVID get COVID a second time?**

  Yes. Reinfection means that someone who was previously infected and recovered, than later becomes sick again with the same illness, this can happen with COVID.
  The CDC is still learning about COVID-19 and is participating in ongoing studies that will help us to understand how likely reinfection is, how often reinfection occurs, how soon after the first infection can reinfection take place, how severe the cases of reinfection are, who is at higher risk for reinfection, what reinfection means for a person's immunity, and if a reinfected person is able to spread COVID-19.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/reinfection.html

- **How many strains of COVID are there?**

  There are seven coronaviruses that can infect people. These include:

  - Two alpha viruses: 229E and NL63
  - Five beta viruses: OC43, HKU1, MERS-CoV: causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome or MERS, SARS-CoV: causes severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS, and SARS-CoV-2: causes coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19

  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/types.html

Vaccine Trial Data:

- **What type of testing was done? How has it been tested?**

  Clinical trials are being done to evaluate several COVID-19 vaccines. In these studies, there are thousands of study participants from a wide range of ages and demographics, which helps the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to determine the safety and effectiveness of all three major vaccine options (Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca). The trials are being conducted under FDA guidance in order to ensure results are high quality and reliable. Each of the potential COVID-19 vaccines are going through a rigorous, multi-stage testing process including people at high-risk for COVID-19.

  The Pfizer vaccine study included over 43,000 participants. No serious safety concerns have been observed, and the vaccine was well tolerated across all populations.

  The Moderna vaccine study included more than 30,000 participants in the U.S and is being run in partnership with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services.
  https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines

Vaccine Trial Data Continued:

- **Trial results?**
  - Pfizer has been shown to be 95% effective. There were 170 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 evaluated among study participants, with 162 observed in the placebo group versus 8 in the vaccine group.
  - Moderna has been shown to be 94.5 % effective. There were 196 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 evaluated among study participants, with 185 cases of COVID-19 observed in those who received a placebo injection and only 11 cases in those who received the vaccine.

  To date, the Data Monitoring Committee for Pfizer has not reported any serious safety concerns related to the vaccine. Study participants report that the vaccine was well tolerated, with most adverse events resolving shortly after vaccination. The only major side effects that occurred was headache and fatigue, which occurred in less than 4% of those participating in the study. Older adults tended to report both fewer and more mild side effects after taking the vaccination.
  https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine
  https://www.modernatx.com/modernas-mrna-technology
  https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03248-7

- **How many people have already received the vaccine?**

  There are an estimated 60,000 volunteers participating or who have already participate in vaccine trials and who have received the vaccine via nearly 215 clinical research sites within the United States and internationally.
  https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/fourth-large-scale-covid-19-vaccine-trial-begins-united-states

- **Did they have immunity after receiving the vaccine?**

  The study results indicate that a high level of immunity is achieved by receiving the COVID vaccine. Once the study result have been analyzed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the CDC, and the FDA, there will be a better consensus on how effective the various vaccines are at giving the person receiving the vaccination immunity to COVID.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

- **Who was included in the COVID vaccine trials?**

  Pfizer enrolled 43,931 participants from a variety of different demographics, locations, and ethnicities. Of the study participants, 45% were 56 to 85 years old. No participants under the age of 16 have so far been included in the Pfizer trials.

  Moderna enrolled 30,000 participants. In their study, 25% were 65 years or older, 29% were 25-44 years old, and 39% were 45-64 years old. Of the study participants, 8,000 have at least one chronic condition.

  https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf

  https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine

Vaccine Safety and Side Effects:

- **How are side effects and vaccine safety monitored?**

  After a vaccine is approved for use, the vaccine safety monitoring systems watch for possible side effects. If an unexpected side effect is seen, then experts will quickly study it further to figure out whether or not it is a true safety concern. The CDC is working to expand safety surveillance to evaluate COVID-19 vaccine safety. The different monitoring systems are V-SAFE and National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).
  https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine

- **Can you feel sick (experience side effects) after being vaccinated and for how long? Are the side effects the same for both doses?**

  During the Pfizer trials, some study participants experienced fatigue and/or headache, after receiving either dose of the vaccine. Otherwise, the vaccination will well tolerated across the more than 43,000 participants enrolled.
  With the Moderna vaccination, there were reports across both doses of some participants experiencing injection site pain and redness, muscle aches, joint paint, and/or headache.
  However, all side effect lasted a maximum of two days, and most study participants reported full recovery much sooner.
  https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

  - **What will the impact of the vaccine be on first responders and healthcare providers? Will there be a need to prioritize and stagger vaccination of these groups?**

    Those who are first responders or healthcare workers will be prioritized and will be given the vaccine first due to their exposure rate. Experts also recommend staggering vaccination among first responder staff and that they be vaccinated before their last shift of the week ends so they can recover from any side effects during their days off.
    https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html
    https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

- **What should you do if you have already had COVID?**

  Get vaccinated. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID and the fact re-infection with COVID is possible, it is still recommended for those individuals who have already recovered from a COVID infection to receive the vaccine. This remains true even if they have had a test done to demonstrate they currently have some level of natural antibodies against COVID.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html

Vaccine Safety and Side Effects Continued:

- **Are there any long-term side effects of receiving the COVID vaccination?**
  There are no known long-term side effects to receiving the vaccination. Each vaccine is going through all the acceptable steps as required by the CDC, FDA, and other guiding bodies to ensure its safety.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fabout-vaccines%2Fhow-they-work.html
- **Can you receive the vaccine if you are immunocompromised?**
  Yes. It is highly recommended for persons who are immunocompromised to receive a COVID vaccine as they are at high risk of developing severe illness due to COVID infection. As a result, people who are immunocompromised are being considered to receive vaccination earlier than the general public.
  https://www.pfizer.com/news/hot-topics/our_covid_19_vaccine_study_what_s_next
  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2020-08/COVID-08-Dooling.pdf
- **Can you receive the vaccine if you are pregnant?**
  There is currently no guidance available from the CDC or other governing bodies stating whether pregnant women will be at an increased risk of additional side effects from vaccination. However, pregnant women are still recommended to receive the annual flu vaccine and have been found to be more at risk for developing severe illness from COVID infections. Pregnant women were not included in any of the COVID vaccine trials. The first step is to see how people respond to the vaccines currently being tested, with a particular focus on healthy women who are of childbearing age. What is learned about the safety and side effects of these vaccines will help experts in maternal fetal medicine, ethics, and other fields make recommendations about which vaccines should be evaluated in pregnant women. Pregnant women should consult with their physician before receiving a COVID vaccine.
  https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/will-coronavirus-vaccines-be-safe-for-pregnant-women.html
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/special-populations/pregnancy-data-on-covid-19.html
- **Is it safe to receive the flu and COVID vaccine at the same time?**
  There is no data to show if it would be safe to receive the flu and COVID vaccine at the same time. However, there is data showing that individuals can become ill with both flu and COVID at the same time. As it is flu season and COVID continues to spread through the community it is recommended to seek flu vaccination early so that you can confidently receive the COVID vaccine when it is available.
  https://www.geisinger.org/health-and-wellness/wellness-articles/2020/10/08/16/27/can-i-get-flu-and-covid-19
- **Are there any factors (contraindications) that could make it unsafe to receive the COVID vaccine: age, pre-existing conditions, medications, etc.?**
  It is unknown at this time what factors, such as certain pre-existing conditions, could result in someone being advised not to receive a COVID vaccine. Information will be shared as COVID-19 vaccines are approved by the FDA and are distributed under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). In the Moderna trial, of the 30,000 enrolled participants, over 8,000 participants identified as having one or more chronic disease. As such, it is likely this subset of participants will help guide early FDA and APIC recommendations.
  https://www.modernatx.com/sites/default/files/content_documents/2020-COVE-Study-Enrollment-Completion-10.22.20.pdf

Vaccine Efficacy:

- **How effective is the vaccine; what is the vaccine's efficacy?**

  Pfizer has been shown to be 95% effective. There were 170 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 evaluated among study participants, with 162 cases of COVID observed in the placebo group versus 8 cases of COVID in the vaccine group. This percentage was consistent across age, gender, race, and ethnicity. Observed efficacy in adults over 65 years of age was over 94%.

  Moderna has been shown to be 94.5 % effective. There were 196 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 evaluated among study participants, with 185 cases of COVID-19 observed in those who received a placebo injection and only 11 cases in those who received the vaccine.

  https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine
  https://www.modernatx.com/modernas-mrna-technology
  https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03248-7

- **When and for how long will you be immune from COVID once you have received the vaccine? Will you need to receive a COVID vaccine annually?**

  It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build up immunity after vaccination. This means that it is possible a person could be infected with COVID just before or just after vaccination and still become ill.
  The study results indicate that a high level of immunity is achieved by receiving the COVID vaccine. Once the study result have been analyzed by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the CDC, and the FDA, there will be a better answer on how effective the various vaccines are at giving the person receiving the vaccination immunity to COVID.
  When a vaccine is licensed, there will only be information about length of immunity for as long as the trial have been occurring. With the current trials, we will likely have data for the continued immune response up to 5 months after vaccination. The vaccine manufacturers will continue to monitor vaccine recipients for several months or more. As a result, over time, a better picture of the durability of immunity will develop and researchers will be better able to understand whether vaccines against COVID-19 will require annual dosing like influenza.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html

  https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/making-vaccines/prevent-covid

- **If a person is vaccinated against COVID-19, will they still be able to spread the virus to susceptible people?**

  If an individual is vaccinated and they are protected from infection, they will not transmit the virus to someone else. It is expected, however, that COVID-19 vaccines may protect against severe infection, but not necessarily prevent mild or asymptomatic infection. If this is the case, a vaccinated person could still spread the virus if they are infected. This is why it is expected that even after a vaccine becomes available, people will need to use masks and practice social distancing measures for some time.

  https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/making-vaccines/prevent-covid

Vaccine Efficacy Continued:

- **Can you get a less severe form of COVID from taking the vaccine?**

  None of the COVID vaccines in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID. Sometimes the vaccine process can cause symptoms similar to COVID, such as headache and fatigue, but that is normal and is a sign that the body is building immunity
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html

- **How long does the vaccine last?**

  Currently, it is difficult to know how long immunity produced by any of the COVID vaccines lasts until we have a more data from longitudinal studies.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html

Vaccine Composition:

- **What is inside the COVID vaccine candidates?**
  As COVID-19 vaccines are authorized and recommended for use in the United States, it will be important to understand what is known about each vaccine. CDC will provide information on who is and who is not recommended to receive each vaccine and what to expect after vaccination, as well as ingredients, safety, and effectiveness.
  Both Pfizer and Moderna, the two top candidates to produce a COVID vaccine have developed COVID vaccines known as **mRNA vaccines**. This type of vaccine contains the material from the virus that instructions to our bodies on how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus. After our cells make copies of the viral protein, our immune system responds and recognize that the protein is not native to our bodies, attacks it, and then remembers how to fight the virus that causes COVID. As such, if someone who was vaccinated was infected in the future, their body could easily fight off the COVID infection.
  - Other types of vaccines being research to develop a COVID vaccine:
    There are also **protein subunit vaccines** that are being researched for use against COVID. These vaccines include harmless proteins from the virus that cause COVID-19. Once vaccinated, our immune system recognizes that the proteins do not belong in the body and begins the same immune response as describe above.
    Vector vaccines for COVID are also being researched. These contain a weakened version of a live virus, *a different virus than the virus that causes COVID-19*. This virus is engineered to have genetic material from the virus that causes COVID. Once this weak virus is injected it follows a process very similar to the mRNA vaccines, telling our bodies to make a protein that is unique to the virus that causes COVID-19. The immune system responds and once again memory is formed against this protein to protect the body from future COVID infection.

  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html

  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fabout-vaccines%2Fhow-they-work.html

Vaccine Composition Continued:

- **Does the vaccine have eggs in it?**

  No, the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines being researched do not contain eggs.
  https://fox40.com/news/national-and-world-news/egg-based-vaccine-wont-work-for-covid-19-scientists-say/

- **Does the vaccine have a strong strain of COVID-19 within the vaccine?**

  No, the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines being researched do not have a strong strain of COVID within them. These vaccines only contain a genetic material that instructs our body to make a COVID protein that can easily be recognized as an intruder, attacked, defeated, and remembered should the person become re-exposed.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fabout-vaccines%2Fhow-they-work.html

Cost:

- **How much does it cost and will insurance pay for it? Would insurance cover the cost?**

  Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers can charge an administration fee for providing the vaccination. Vaccine providers will be able to have this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company, or if the patient is uninsured, they will be able to have the free reimbursed by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html
  https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-much-will-it-cost-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccine

Receiving the Vaccine:

- **How will the vaccine be administered?**

  The vaccine will be administered via an upper arm injection (shot) similar to many routine vaccinations. Depending upon the vaccination received, a second dose will need to be administered within 21 to 28 days after the original vaccination was given.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

- **How can I register to go to a vaccine site?**
  Vaccine site information will be made available on the Ohio Department of Health website and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department website once large-scale vaccination is underway.
  http://coronavirus.ohio.gov/
  https://lucascountyhealth.com/coronavirusupdates/

Receiving the Vaccine Continued:

- **How many injections (shots) are required to receive the COVID vaccine?**

  Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines currently in Phase 3 clinical trials in the United States requires two shots to be effective. The second dose of vaccine is administered 21 to 28 days after the original injection, depending upon which vaccine is give. The second dose is required so that maximum protection from COVID can be achieved.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

- **How many days have to pass before you can receive the second dose of a COVID vaccine?**

  The second dose of vaccine is administered 21 to 28 days after the original injection, depending upon which vaccine is give. The second does is required so that maximum protection from COVID can be achieved.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html

- **What happens if you do not take the second dose?**
  The second dose is required so that maximum protection from COVID can be achieved. If the second dose is not received, the vaccine will not be as effective and there is the possibility that you could still become infected with COVID. Therefore, it is in your best interest to take both doses of the vaccine so that you can receive maximum benefit from either COVID vaccine.

  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html
  https://www.statnews.com/2020/11/16/modernas-covid-19-vaccine-is-strongly-effective-early-look-at-data-show/

- **How will you know when to get second dose?**

  Ohio is exploring several methods of notifying vaccine recipients of the need for second doses, in addition to the CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccination report cards. Options under exploration include public communications emphasizing the importance of second-doses, direct outreach from the state (e.g., postcards, text messages), and provider-site led calls/messages to schedule and remind recipients about second doses.

  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/ohio-jurisdiction-executive-summary.pdf

- **Which vaccines are closest to approval for public administration?**

  Currently, there is no FDA-approved or authorized vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19. The FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) will meet in open session on December 10th to discuss Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-29 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age or older. It is also possible that this meeting will also include discussion of EUA approval for the Moderna vaccine as well. When a safe and effective vaccine is found, COVAX (led by WHO, GAVI and CEPI) will facilitate the equitable access and distribution of these vaccines to protect people in all countries.
  https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines

  https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine

Receiving the Vaccine Continued:

- **Do I have to go back to the same place where I received my first dose for my second dose?**
  While this is the recommended way to receive the vaccine, it is not required. All COVID vaccination providers are required to use a state-wide registration system and will be able to determine if a patient is due for the first or second dose of vaccine. This vaccine registration system will also help to ensure that first and second doses are administered using the same vaccine product and appropriately spaced according to ACIP-recommended intervals
  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

- **If I get one dose of Vaccine A, do I need to get second dose of Vaccine A or can it be Vaccine B?**

  No, both doses must be from the same vaccine producer. Different COVID-19 vaccine products will not be interchangeable, a vaccine recipient's second dose must be from the same manufacturer as their first dose.

  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

Vaccine Access:

- **Who will have access to the vaccine first?**

  In order to protect critical populations, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have worked diligently to aid the CDC and FDA in their decisions on who should first receive the vaccine once approved for an EUA. In order to effectively curb the spread of COVID, it has been recommended that the first to receive the vaccine should be front healthcare personnel, then workers in essential and critical industries, followed by people at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions and people 65 years and older, and then the general public.
  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

- **Will first responders and health care personnel be able to have their immediate family vaccinated when they receive the initial doses of vaccine?**

  There will be limited doses of vaccine available in the first weeks of distribution and vaccination. Depending upon the ability to ramp up COVID-19 vaccine production, there may not be vaccines available for immediate family members of first responders when first responders are initially being vaccinated.
  https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf

Past COVID-19 Infections and Antibodies:

- **What should you do if you have already had COVID?**

  Get vaccinated. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID and the fact re-infection with COVID is possible, it is still recommended for those individuals who have already recovered from a COVID infection to receive the vaccine. This remains true even if they have had a test done to demonstrate they currently have some level of natural antibodies against COVID.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html

- **Are there any additional side effects of risks for someone who has had COVID prior to being vaccinated?**

  No. There are no specific evidence that someone with a prior COVID infection would experience more severe side effects than someone who has not suffered from a COVID-19 infection in the past. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.htmlVaccines and Employment Requirements:

- **Will/can employers require its employees to receive the vaccine?**

  It ultimately depends on the employer. OSHA has stated that employers can legally impose the vaccine requirement on their workforce, but employees have the right to request medical or religious exemptions under federal anti-discrimination laws. Those who work in the healthcare field may be required to receive the vaccine. https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine

- **Do I need to receive the vaccine as a condition of employment?**

  It depends upon the employer. The CDC can only recommend making the vaccine part of an organization's annual wellness program. The CDC has not taken a stance on making the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory in the workplace.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

- **Will the vaccine be required for me to do my job?**

  OSHA has stated that employers can legally impose the vaccine requirement on their workforce, but employees have the right to request medical or religious exemptions under federal anti-discrimination laws. Those who work in the healthcare field may be required to receive the vaccine. The CDC has not weighed in on making the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory in the workplace.
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html