

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL
Bronx Community Board No. 8
Minutes of the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee
Held on
Wednesday, December 9th, 2020 at 7pm
Via
Zoom Conference Call

| Present: | Affiliation |
|-----------------|---|
| Omar Murray | Chair – Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee |
| Lisa Daub | CB8- Committee Member |
| Steve Froot | CB8- Committee Member |
| Julia Gomez | CB8- Committee Member |
| Robert Kaplan | CB8- Committee Member |
| Karen Pesce | CB8- Committee Member |

| Absent: | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Martin Gluck | CB8- Committee Member |

| Guest (s): | |
|----------------------|---|
| Martin Bell | Community Resident |
| Diomarys Escano-Bell | Treasurer, Bronx Community Board No. 8 |
| Bob Bender | Vice-Chair, Bronx Community Board No. 8 |
| David Gellman | Chair, CB8-Budget Committee |
| Rosemary Ginty | Chair, CB8-Parks and Recreation Committee |
| Dr. Patricia Novy | Senior Director of Medical Affairs, Moderna |
| Laura Spalter | Chair, Bronx Community Board No. 8 |
| Robert Spalter | Community Resident |
| Sam Liedtka | Office of Assemblyman Jeffery Dinowitz |
| Dr. Faith Walters | Research Specialist, Pfizer |

The Committee meeting is called to order at 7:05 pm. The Chair opens with welcoming all to the December 2020 HHSS meeting. Currently the covid-19 infection rate is increasing in the US and two pharmaceutical Companies (Moderna and Pfizer) have submitted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The explains tonight Dr. Patricia Novy - Senior Director of Medical Affairs at Moderna will be speaking about the Moderna vaccine and Dr. Faith Walters – Research Specialist and Team Leader at Pfizer will be speaking about the Pfizer vaccines. Both Vaccines have been projected to have over a 90% effective rate against covid-19.

Dr. Novy States he Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine uses mRNA to provide a blueprint for your cells to build your body's defense against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine does not contain SARS-CoV-2, or any virus—just the blueprint to help fight against it. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may not protect everyone. mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine to protect against infectious diseases. To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if covid-19 virus enters our bodies.

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine multiple-dose vials are stored frozen between -25° to -15°C (-13° to 5°F). The vaccine is stored in the original carton to protect from light. Should not be stored on dry ice or below -40°C (-40°F).

The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine can be stored refrigerated between 2° to 8°C (36° to 46°F) for up to 30 days prior to first use. The Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is administered in two doses (0.5 mL each). The first dose is the actual vaccine and the second dose is the booster which must be taken 28 days after the first dose.

Side effects that have been reported with the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- Pain, redness or swelling where the shot was given
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Joint pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Feeling unwell
- Swollen lymph nodes

Questions about Moderna Vaccines

Q. What is the status of the EUA Approval for Moderna Vaccines?

Ans: Moderna submitted a EUA to the FDA on November 30 and the request is currently being reviewed by the FDA Covid-19 Advisory Committee and Moderna expects to get an answer next week.

Q. Should people with compromised immune system such as those infected with cancer or HIV/Aids take this vaccine?

Ans: During human trials the Moderna vaccines was not tested on people with compromised immune system so it's very hard to tell how they would react to the vaccines. The CDC will issue further guidance how to handle those with compromised immune system.

Q. There will be more vaccines on the markets, will people be able to choose which vaccines to take

Ans: It will be decided by each state. Some states may or may not allow people to choose which vaccines to take.

Q. What information do you have on children and taking the Moderna vaccine?

Ans: The first step will be to do human trials on adolescences age 12-16 and then in children younger than age 11. these trials will begin next month.

Q. What is the gender breakdown for the human trials conducted for Moderna covid-19 vaccine?

Ans: 53% males and 47% female

Q. How would the Moderna mRNA covid-19 vaccines affect a pregnant woman or a woman planning to get pregnant and are there chances the baby would born with deformities?

Ans: No the Vaccine doesn't contain any DNA. The mRNA is mixed with LNP and mRNA doesn't not mix with a person's DNA so the chances of affecting a pregnancy are slim.

The Chair and Committee expresses many thanks to Dr. Novy and the entire staff at Moderna for their hand work in creating this vaccine has many a suffering. Dr. Novy thanks the committee for inviting her.

Dr. Walters explains the Pfizer covid-19 vaccines were created in conjunction with BioNTech. BioNTech is a German biotechnology company based in Mainz, Germany that develops and manufactures active immunotherapies for patient-specific approaches to the treatment of diseases. The Pfizer vaccine contains an active messenger RNA that carries instructions for making the virus to spike protein, which it uses to gain entry to cells. The mRNA is synthetic, not extracted from actual viruses. It is delivered in a tiny sphere of inert fatty material called a lipid nanoparticle. The vaccine has to be kept in at -70 degrees- requires a strong cooling system.

Pfizer has covid-19 vaccines sites in the US, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Germany and Turkey with over 44000 participants enrolled in clinical trials. The clinical trials were conducted into three (3) phases:

1. Safety
2. Effectiveness
3. Safety and Effectiveness of vaccine

Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine included people from the following racial and ethnic categories:

- 81.9% White
- 26.2% Hispanic/Latino
- 9.8% African American
- 4.4% Asian
- <3% other races/ethnicities

Age and sex breakdown:

- 50.6% male
- 49.4% female
- 21.4% 65 years and older

Side effects that have been reported with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- Injection site pain
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- chills
- Joint pain
- Fever
- Injection site swelling
- Injection site redness
- Nausea
- feeling unwell
- Swollen lymph nodes

Questions about Pfizer Vaccines

Q. How much vaccines do you expect to be distributed?

Ans: For 2020 Pfizer is committed to 50 million doses and 1.3 billion for 2021

Q. Should people continue to wear masks after getting the vaccines?

Ans: Yes because until when we reach herd immunity then maybe we will be safer

Q. what is the plans to deal with storage because the vaccine requires high degree level?

Ans: The vaccines will be shipped using a high-level freezer equipment

The Chair and Committee thanks both Presenters for coming. Many thanks to the entire staff at Pfizer and Moderna for the outstanding job that they have done in creating this vaccine at such a time when needed. Meeting is adjourned at 8:45pm.

Recorded and Submitted By:
Omar Murray