



FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD VACCINATION PROGRAM

MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW WILL OUR GUARDSMEN RECEIVE THE VACCINE?

- The Florida National Guard (FLNG) has been selected to receive 1,100 doses of the MODERNA vaccine to begin inoculating the FLNG COVID 502(f) population.
- The FLNG Medical Detachment will conduct all immunizations.
- If the 502(f) population does not exhaust the 1,100 doses, the FLNG will inoculate the force based on Department of Defense priorities.
- Even those who have been previously diagnosed with COVID should still get the vaccine.
- The Moderna vaccine requires two doses, 28 days apart.

IS IT SAFE?

- While the development of the COVID-19 vaccine was accelerated, all steps were followed to ensure the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. This virus is a member of the coronavirus family and research on these viruses was already underway. Operation Warp Speed (OWS), a multi-agency partnership that works with other federal and private-sector organizations, leveraged the full capacity of the United States government to ensure that no technical, logistical or financial hurdles hindered vaccine development or deployment of the vaccines.
- The COVID-19 vaccines **do not use a live virus** that causes COVID-19. Keep in mind that it will take a few weeks for your body to build immunity after vaccination. As a result, it is possible you could become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or after being vaccinated.
- The vaccine can cause mild side effects such as pain, redness or swelling where the shot was given, fever/chills, fatigue, headache, muscle pain or joint pain. These side effects are associated with the normal immune response and are not an indication that you have COVID-19.
- The process is simple and quick with medical observation during and following the administration of the vaccine.

DOES IT WORK?

- The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Pfizer BioNTech (13 Dec 2020) and Moderna COVID-19 (17 Dec 2020) Vaccinations for Emergency Use Authorization.
- The FDA released a briefing in December confirming Moderna's data on safety and efficacy. The **Moderna vaccine is 94.1% effective** in the prevention of severe COVID-19 with no specific safety concerns identified.

IS IT MANDATORY?

- At this time, there is no mandate for personnel to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Many personnel are at risk for COVID-19 infection and can pass the infection on to others, including fellow service members, friends and family members. For this reason, our guardsmen are encouraged to get vaccinated in order to protect themselves and others.
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine can help protect you by creating an antibody response in your body without having to become sick.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES

American Hospital Association (2020). FDA verifies safety, efficacy data for Moderna COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
<https://www.aha.org/news/headline/2020-12-15-fda-verifies-safety-efficacy-data-moderna-covid-19-vaccine-candidate>

Mayo Clinic (2020).
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-vaccine/art-20484859>

Polack, F.P., Thomas, S.J., Kitchin, N..... Absalon, J. (2020). Safety and efficacy of BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine.
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2034577>

Slaoui, M. & Hepburn, M. (2020). Developing Safe and Effective Covid Vaccines- Operation Warp Speed Strategy and Approach. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2027405>