



GET THE FACTS!

COVID-19 VACCINE

All eligible USFK-affiliated individuals will be offered the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, and while it is voluntary and ultimately your choice to receive it, USFK wants you to make an informed and educated decision about the vaccine.

HAS THE VACCINE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)?

The U.S. FDA authorized the use of Moderna's vaccine under Emergency Use Authorization on December 19 (2020) for individuals 18 years and older. No vaccine has been officially approved by the FDA for use, and it could take up to 18-24 months of continuous evaluation to receive FDA approval.

DO I HAVE TO GET THE MODERNA VACCINE?

This vaccine is voluntary, and it is ultimately your choice on whether or not to receive it.

IS THE MODERNA COVID VACCINE EFFECTIVE?

Moderna conducted a rigorous three-phase trial that studied more than 30,000 individuals with diverse ages, racial and ethnic groups that enabled the FDA to determine that the vaccine is safe and effective for immediate use. Moderna's vaccine was 94.1% effective at protecting against symptomatic COVID-19 in study cases. Pregnant women and children under 18 years old were not included in the trial study. The vaccine, manufactured and created in 11 months, is based on science and technology and not politically fast-tracked.

HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

The Moderna vaccine is a 2-dose series, given 1 month apart, administered directly into muscle, and it can take up to 1-2 weeks after the second dose to be considered fully vaccinated.

Using gene-based technology, it instructs human cells to make a protein resembling the spike protein found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. This triggers an immune response that induces antibodies to block entry of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in human cells and thereby prevents an infection.

WILL THE VACCINE GIVE ME COVID-19?

The Moderna vaccine does not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus — or any live virus — thus cannot give individuals COVID-19.

WHAT SIDE-EFFECTS SHOULD I EXPECT AFTER GETTING THE VACCINE?

Common side effects reported during the study included muscle aches, pain and swelling around the injection site, fatigue, headache and fever. This is normal and indicates

your body is creating antibodies to protect you from COVID-19. Anyone experiencing potential side effects should see their healthcare provider.

WHAT IF I HAVE AN ALLERGIC REACTION?

The Moderna vaccine should NOT be administered to individuals with a known history of severe allergic reactions to vaccines. If a severe reaction occurs, it will usually happen within a few minutes to one hour after getting a dose of the Moderna vaccine. Reactions include difficulty breathing, swelling of the face and throat, fast heartbeat, body rash, dizziness and weakness. If you experience any signs of a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1 (or 1-1-9) and go to the nearest emergency room or hospital. For other symptoms that may concern you, contact your healthcare provider.

WHEN CAN I GET THE VACCINE?

If you are suffering from an acute illness, you should defer taking any vaccinations until you recover. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should be administered alone and with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after receiving any other vaccine. In regards to distribution, USFK is following DoD guidance; please refer to the USFK COVID page for more information as it becomes available.

I GOT THE VACCINE. CAN I GO TO OFF-LIMIT LOCATIONS?

Although the vaccine may prevent you from getting COVID-19, you must still adhere to USFK core tenets and HPCON measures, as well as ROK government and local directives.

I HAVE A CONCERN NOT LISTED HERE. WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Discuss your concerns with your primary healthcare provider or see www.fda.gov/media/144638/download for additional information to make an informed and educated decision.

TAKING THE MODERNA VACCINE WILL HELP PROTECT THE FORCE AND COMMUNITY TO STRENGTHEN OUR "FIGHT TONIGHT" READINESS POSTURE