COVID-19 2nd VACCINE DOSE

What if I don't get my second vaccine dose in time?

- **The Pfizer vaccine** requires two doses, three weeks apart.

- **The Moderna vaccine** requires two doses, four weeks apart.

The purpose of the second dose is to strengthen the immune response created by the first dose and "fine-tune" it to better counteract the real virus when your body is exposed to it.

Generally, it is not an issue if you are late getting your second dose. Just schedule a visit *as soon as possible*.

Your immune system will benefit from the second dose, even if it is late. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say it is okay to take the second dose up to six weeks after receiving the first dose. This recommendation is based on what the CDC has learned about other vaccinations that include a series of doses.

Things to remember:

- Don't let side effects from the first dose keep you from taking the second dose, unless your health care provider says you should not take it.

- It takes both doses for most people to achieve greater than 90% effectiveness.

**#CovidVaccineSavesLives
#EndThePandemic**

- Even after your are vaccinated, continue to:
  - Wear face coverings in public.
  - Wash your hands.
  - Practice physical distancing with people who do not live in your household.
  - Avoid large gatherings.

The Moderna, Pfizer, and Janssen vaccines have mild and temporary side effects, including pain at the injection site, headache, fever, fatigue, chills, and muscle and joint pain. Individuals with severe allergic reactions to other vaccines should consult their doctor in case they may be allergic to a component of the vaccine. They should be observed for 30 minutes following injection rather than the usual 15 minutes. Individuals who carry an EpiPen for their allergies should bring it to their appointment. CDC notes that women who are pregnant or breastfeeding can be presented the option to vaccinate, but first talk to your health care practitioner if you have any concerns about whether you should receive it.