

August 20, 2021

Dear Colleague:

As you are aware, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for three COVID-19 vaccines. These include the two mRNA vaccines by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, and the vaccine by Janssen/Johnson & Johnson. Full licensure of these vaccines is anticipated.

There are several other candidate COVID-19 vaccines for which an FDA EUA has not yet been given, including vaccines under study in the United States (e.g. the AstraZeneca vaccine and Novovax vaccines) and vaccines that have been licensed in other countries or approved by the World Health Organization (e.g. The AstraZeneca vaccine, the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia, the Sinovac vaccine from China, and many more).

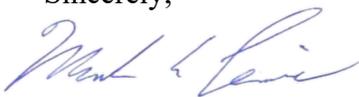
A few individuals in Vermont may have received vaccines licensed in other countries as part of working and living abroad. In addition, several hundred individuals in Vermont and the region have received COVID-19 vaccines as a volunteer in formal clinical trials of vaccine efficacy. We applaud the contributions of these individuals, many of whom are volunteers in the AstraZeneca vaccine trial conducted in Vermont at the UVM Medical Center.

It is important to note that based on ethical research principles, these volunteers retain the choice to also receive an additional EUA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, such as the mRNA vaccines. This decision should ideally be made in consultation and communication with the research study team so documentation is complete and impact on the original study data is captured.

For both sets of people; the State of Vermont will offer Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines at present; these individuals are able to receive the full primary series, although data may demonstrate that only a single dose is necessary.

Primary Care offices, Pharmacies, and Vermont Department of Health pop-up vaccine sites will receive instructions clarifying that these individuals are eligible immediately for the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. They should not be denied one of these approved vaccines if their original vaccine appears on a state or national registry.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Levine, MD  
Commissioner of Health

