CONSONUS PHARMACY

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COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

Q. What are the potential characteristics of allergic reactions and vaccine side effects following mRNA COVID-19 vaccine AND who should NOT receive a second dose?

Characteristic	Immediate allergic reactions (including anaphylaxis)	Vasovagal reaction	Vaccine side effects (local and systemic)
Timing after vaccination	Most occur within 15-30 minutes of vaccination	Most occur within 15 minutes	Median of 1 to 3 days after vaccination (with most occurring day after vaccination)
Signs and symptoms			
Constitutional	Feeling of impending doom	Feeling warm or cold	Fever, chills, fatigue
Cutaneous	Skin symptoms present in ~90% of people with anaphylaxis, including pruritus, urticaria, flushing, angioedema	Pallor, diaphoresis, clammy skin, sensation of facial warmth	Pain, erythema or swelling at injection site; lymphadenopathy in same arm as vaccination
Neurologic	Confusion, disorientation, dizziness, lightheadedness, weakness, loss of consciousness	Dizziness, lightheadedness, syncope (often after prodromal symptoms for a few seconds or minutes), weakness, changes in vision (such as spots of flickering lights, tunnel vision), changes in hearing	Headache
Respiratory	Shortness of breath, wheezing, bronchospasm, stridor, hypoxia	Variable; if accompanied by anxiety, may have an elevated respiratory rate	N/A
Cardiovascular	Hypotension, tachycardia	Variable; may have hypotension or bradycardia during syncopal event	N/A
Gastrointestinal	Nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea	Nausea, vomiting	Vomiting or diarrhea may occur
Musculoskeletal	N/A	N/A	Myalgia, arthralgia
Vaccine recommendations			
Recommended to receive 2nd dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine?	No	Yes	Yes

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Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

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Q: When do I need to complete a VAERS to report a serious adverse event following the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is a national early warning system to detect possible safety problems. It is a passive reporting system and it relies on individuals to send in reports of their experiences. VAERS accepts and analyzes reports of adverse events (possible side effects), but it is not designed to detect if a vaccine caused an adverse event. Reporting is encouraged for any significant reaction (i.e. hospitalization, use of epinephrine) even if it is uncertain whether the vaccine caused the event.

Reporting is required for vaccine administration errors, serious adverse events (e.g. allergic reaction requiring epi-pen or hospitalization) and cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MMS).

VAERS can be submitted at https://vaers.hhs.gov or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

Please let Consonus pharmacy know if you are reporting an adverse event or if you need assistance in knowing what to report.

Q: How does Consonus define facility staff that are eligible for vaccination?

A: In order to ensure that seniors residing in your facility and their staff will have sufficient vaccine supply and remain prioritized for your scheduled clinics, Consonus will define associated staff as follows:

- Any Associated staff person who has been testing with you (i.e. they are in your facility on a routine basis) can receive their vaccine with you at your clinic
- They need to be able to commit to doing both doses with you on your scheduled day.
- This does not include those that never /or rarely enter your facility -interact with your staff or residents
- Other associated staff will need to be referred to their parent company or your local public health authority.
- Please note that many parent companies and local jurisdictions are actively making arrangements for these associated staff to be vaccinated through other means

Reference: Provider Alert published January 8th, 2021 r/t to Vaccinations.