

December 18, 2020



# Palchik Post



Providence District Supervisor  
Dalia A. Palchik

*Dalia Palchik*

Dear Providence Residents,

A new Fairfax County vaccine website has been launched to make sure our residents get the most current information on vaccines and when they will become available to the majority of the public. The focus for vaccination will initially be health care professionals and long term care facility residents. There is more hope than ever that an end is in sight to this pandemic, but until then we must work hard and follow the safety measures; wear masks, follow social distancing, wash hands, and stay home when possible.

## New Fairfax Vaccine Website



Visit the [Fairfax County Vaccine website](#) for updated information on COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination information.

### ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

On December 11, the FDA issued the first emergency use authorization for COVID-19 vaccine in individuals 16 years of age and older. The emergency use authorization allows the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. Get the facts on the [Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine](#).

Partners involved in COVID-19 vaccine development and distribution include:

- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
- Vaccine manufacturers AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer



## FOCUS ON FACTS / mRNA COVID-19 VACCINES



- ✓ mRNA vaccines cannot give someone COVID-19.
- ✓ mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- ✓ They do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.
- ✓ mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept.



**Facts matter.**

Do your part to stop the spread of COVID-19 and the spread of disinformation.

[fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/rumor-control](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/rumor-control)

## How a new vaccine is developed, approved and manufactured

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets rules for the three phases of clinical trials to ensure the safety of the volunteers. Researchers test vaccines with adults first.

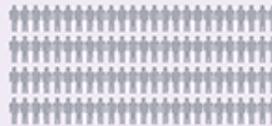
### PHASE 1



**20-100  
healthy volunteers**

- Is this vaccine safe?
- Does this vaccine seem to work?
- Are there any serious side effects?
- How is the size of the dose related to side effects?

### PHASE 2



**several hundred  
volunteers**

- What are the most common short-term side effects?
- How are the volunteers' immune systems responding to the vaccine?

### PHASE 3



**hundreds or thousands  
of volunteers**

- How do people who get the vaccine and people who do not get the vaccine compare?
- Is the vaccine safe?
- Is the vaccine effective?
- What are the most common side effects?

**FDA licenses the vaccine only if:**

- It's safe and effective
- Benefits outweigh risks

Vaccines are made in batches called lots.



Manufacturers must test all lots to make sure they are safe, pure and potent. The lots can only be released once FDA reviews their safety and quality.

The FDA inspects manufacturing facilities regularly to ensure quality and safety.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.FDA.GOV/CBER](https://www.fda.gov/cber)

# Winter Holidays and COVID-19

Staying safe is the number one priority as we enter the winter holiday season. Celebrating with your household is the safest way to enjoy the holidays. Find COVID-19 recommendations for family celebrations, shopping and entertainment [here](#)

Are you looking for a COVID-19 test or do you have other questions about COVID-19? Call the Fairfax County Health Department call center at 703-267-3511 with Coronavirus questions; open 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.



## Contact Us

We want to hear from you! Please reach out to us with questions, comments or just to say hello.

**Office Phone:** (703) 560-6946

**Email:** [Providence@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Providence@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Email us [HERE](#) if you would like events included in our newsletter or you would like a member of our team to join your HOA meeting.

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