<div align="center">**COVID VACCINE FACTS FOR OLDER ADULTS**</div>

The Franklin County Office on Aging would like to provide you with information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine to help your community make educated health choices. For additional information on the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination locations, please visit COVID-19 (ohio.gov). *Franklin County Office on Aging will provide free transportation to adults age 60 and older who have scheduled a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.* To arrange transportation, call (614) 525-6200, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **You must have a vaccine appointment scheduled before calling**.

What are the benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine?

While the world is taking precautions against COVID-19 in the form of mask wearing and social distancing, the COVID-19 vaccine is another way in which people can take precautionary measures. The COVID-19 vaccine works with your body's immune system, so that if you are exposed to the virus, it will already have started to create a defense against it. The COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be effective in preventing the contraction of the virus.

At this time, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine are the two vaccines that have been authorized and recommended for COVID-19 prevention. Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require two shots to be effective. Depending on which vaccine received, the timing between the first and second shot will differ. For the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the recommended time to wait for the second shot is 3 weeks (or 21 days) after your first shot; for the Moderna, it is 1 month (or 28 days) after your first shot. A third authorized vaccine, the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), is a one-dose vaccine, that has been approved for use in people age 18 and older.

Concerns about the virus

The main two concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccine are the potential side effects and the amount of time it took to develop the vaccine. Thus far, none of the vaccine trials have reported any serious safety concerns. Minor side effects can include a fever or soreness at the injection sight, though not every person will experience these when receiving the vaccine. As for the time it has taken to develop this vaccine, the type of vaccine developed for COVID-19 by Pfizer/BioNTech has been years in development for other infectious viruses. Thus, the manufacturing process was ready very early in the pandemic.

Is it safe?

The United States currently has the safest vaccine supply in its history. The CDC's Immunization Safety Office works to communicate timely and transparent information about the safety of vaccines to public health officials, healthcare providers, and the public. The office conducts vaccine safety monitoring and clinical research to help keep vaccines safe. The vaccine does not contain COVID-19 material, so you cannot contract the virus through the vaccine. For those with a history of severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to injectables or other vaccines should discuss the vaccination with their doctor.

Process for distributing the vaccine

Ohio will expand eligibility for the Covid-19 vaccine to every resident 16 and older on March 29th. Ohioans who are 40 or older and those with cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease and obesity can get the vaccine beginning March 19th. To view the most current distribution schedule visit COVID-19 Vaccination Program | COVID-19 (ohio.gov).

COVID-19 VACCINATION SITES

For the most current information on COVID-19 and vaccination provider locations visit the Ohio Department of Health at https://coronavirus.ohio.gov.

Columbus Public Health:

Celeste Center, 717 E 17th Ave. – BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (no walk-ins)

Columbus Public Health has a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccine doses for eligible Columbus and Worthington residents in Phase 1B. Call 614-645-1519 to schedule an appointment or register online at https://redcap.columbus.gov/surveys/?s=8C9FTR78EN .

Appointment times open up as vaccine doses are received. If registration is temporarily closed, please check back often for availability.

Franklin County Public Health:

Franklin County Public Health will be scheduling appointments as vaccine becomes available.

A link to schedule an appointment will be available at bit.ly/vax2normal when scheduling opens.

Location: 1700 Morse Road, Columbus, 43229

(614) 525-5225

There are other providers who are providing vaccine can be found at the Ohio Department of Health website. (https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov/).

Pharmacies: Appointments can be scheduled starting January 16th at:

Giant Eagle – gianteagle.com/covidvaccine

Kroger – Kroger.com/ohiocovidvaccine or 866-211-5320

Drug Mart – discount-drugmart.com

Hospital Systems:

Ohio Health – Vaccination location: 3430 Ohio Health Parkway at Riverside OhioHealth patients will be notified to schedule their vaccine in OhioHealth MyChart.

Mt Carmel East – Vaccination location: Siegel Center, 5975 E. Broad Street Patients can register online or call primary care physician.

Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center – Vaccination location: Schottenstein Center Patients will receive a phone call, email and/or mail with details on how and when to schedule the vaccine through their MyChart account or through telephone.

Children's Patients 16 years of age or older with certain medical conditions should contact their primary care physician.