

## COVID 101 Presenter Notes

### Slide 1

Hello! My name is \*\*\*\* and I am [part of the NCDHHS COVID-19 Response Team or with \*\*\*\*\* organization]

We're here to share important information about how to get your COVID-19 vaccine. We also want to make sure we have time to hear and answer as many of your questions as possible. We encourage folks to use the chat box to ask their questions and we'll be trying to answer as many as we go during the presentation but will also have some time at the end for questions as well.

**\*\*Note for presenter: Remember to log this COVID 101 presentation at:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9a65X1tA4u0SP5sX00JttvuryoWkreTDQ7jTemGEnpoR7 w/viewform>

### Slide 2

As we begin today's presentation, we'd like to know what's on your mind when it comes to COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

That said, what comments, concerns or questions do you have about COVID-19 or vaccines today?

*[Give participants opportunity to express any initial questions, concerns or comments they have about COVID-19/vaccines]*

The goals for today's presentation are to:

- Inform and educate North Carolinians about proactive measures they can take to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- Earn the trust of North Carolinians.
- Help North Carolinians protect themselves, their loved ones and their communities by getting vaccinated.

### Slide 3

*No notes*

#### **Slide 4 - How COVID-19 is impacting North Carolina**

- North Carolina has had nearly 1.5 million COVID cases and over 18,500 deaths. Sadly, most COVID deaths that are now occurring are preventable with a safe, easy, free vaccine.
- Millions of North Carolinians who have stepped up to get one, but we need more people to get vaccinated.
- Our hospitals are strained. Hospital leaders, doctors and nurses are pleading with people to get vaccinated to not only protect themselves from COVID-19, but to help make sure that hospital care is there for people who need it, whether it's someone needing treatment for cancer, a heart attack, or a life-threatening health crisis.
- With hospital capacity severely strained, we remain at a critical point in the pandemic. To slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect ourselves and others, we strongly recommend that you add layers of protection. Get vaccinated. Wear a mask when in indoor public spaces. Get tested if you have an exposure or symptoms of COVID. Seek treatment for COVID early.

**For more information on current case rates, vaccine metrics and other useful information, visit the COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard at: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>**

#### **Slides 5-7**

*No notes*

#### **Slide 8 – The Facts About the COVID-19 Virus**

COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets that contain the virus. These droplets can be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, noses, or mouth. In some cases, droplets may also land on surfaces. People who then touch that surface might get the virus on their hands and infect themselves by touching their face.

#### **What are droplets?**

Small drops of fluid that get into the air when a person coughs or sneezes, talks, or laughs. Droplets containing the coronavirus can easily spread through the air, especially among people indoors.

### **COVID-19 is spread in three main ways:**

- Breathing in air when close to an infected person who is exhaling small droplets that contain the virus.
- Having these small droplets that contain virus land on the eyes, nose, or mouth, especially through splashes and sprays like a cough or sneeze.
- Touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have the virus on them.

### **Slide 9 – Delta Variant**

Viruses are always changing (or mutating) and because of this, new variants (or strains) of a virus are expected.

Right now, the Delta variant is the main strain of the COVID-19 virus in the United States. It spreads twice as easily as previous variants, and some data suggests it might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated people.

The best way to slow the spread of new variants, such as Delta, is to limit the spread by taking action to protect yourself – this means getting vaccinated.

### **Slide 10 – The Facts About the COVID-19 Virus**

#### **Don't wait to protect yourself – get vaccinated!**

- Nearly all new COVID-19 cases are in people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated people have a higher chance of getting the more dangerous Delta variant of COVID-19 that is spreading across North Carolina.
- Places with low vaccination rates are seeing increased COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Younger people are making up most of the cases.
- Even if you have a mild case of COVID-19, you may struggle with long-term effects like shortness of breath, chest pain, and brain fog.
- Getting vaccinated provides a high level of protection against most of these.
- Serious side effects from COVID-19 vaccines are extremely rare, temporary and treatable.
- Most people just experience a sore arm, a headache and feeling tired and achy for day or two.
- Rigorous clinical trials with thousands of people aged 12 and over, and experience with COVID-19 vaccination among hundreds of millions of diverse Americans, have shown that they are safe and effective—even against the dangerous Delta variant.

### **Slide 11 – Long COVID**

COVID-19 symptoms can last for weeks or months for some people.

Long covid is when covid-19 continues with symptoms 4+ weeks after infection and sometimes after recovery for initial symptoms.

For some people, the lasting **COVID-19 symptoms** are nothing like the original symptoms when they were first infected with COVID-19. The most common long covid symptoms include:

- Coughing
- Ongoing, sometimes debilitating, fatigue
- Body aches
- Joint pain
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste and smell — even if this didn't occur during the height of illness
- Difficulty sleeping
- Headaches
- Brain fog

Brain fog is among the most confusing symptoms for people with long COVID. Patients report being unusually forgetful, confused or unable to concentrate even enough to watch TV. This can happen to people who were in an intensive care unit for a while, but it's relatively rare. However, it is happening to a variety of patients, including those who weren't hospitalized.

Some people have reported feeling better for days or even weeks then relapsing. For others, it's a case of just not feeling like themselves.

Visit [survivorcorps.com](https://survivorcorps.com) for more information on long covid.

## **Slide 12**

*No notes*

## **Slide 13 – About COVID-19 Vaccines**

What are Vaccines?

- Vaccination is a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting you against harmful diseases, before you come into contact with them. Vaccines use your body's natural defenses to build protection against specific infections and make your immune system stronger. Vaccines protect us against viruses and diseases such as Chickenpox and Measles.

The best vaccine is the first one available to you—all are tested, safe, and effective and the FDA continues to monitor vaccine safety.

- All available vaccines are extremely effective in lowering the chance of hospitalization and death caused by COVID-19 with no serious safety concerns.
- The Pfizer vaccine is approved for people age 5 and older, while the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for adults age 18 and older.

[More detail]

The vaccines were built on decades of previous work on similar vaccines. The vaccines were tested at different times and in different places. When and where the vaccines were tested makes it hard to compare the results. Comparing their success rates is like comparing apples to oranges. The bottom line is that all available vaccines are extremely effective in preventing hospitalization and death caused by COVID-19.

*\*\*\*[In case of questions about J&J and Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)]:*

The Food and Drug Administration says that there have been very rare cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after receiving Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Most cases have been reported about two weeks after vaccination and mostly in males, many aged 50 and older.

- GBS is a neurological disorder usually triggered by a respiratory or gastrointestinal infection that most people fully recover from. The body's immune system damages nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis in severe cases.
- Of the 12.8 million doses of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine administered in the U.S. (roughly 8% of all COVID-19 vaccines), around 100 preliminary cases (less than .0008%) of GBS have been possibly linked to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the U.S.
- Over 90% of North Carolinians vaccinated have received either the mRNA-based Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna are different from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and have not seen the same increased risk of GBS.
- With COVID-19 cases rising, the best way to protect your health is to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Unvaccinated people run the highest risk of severe illness, hospitalization, long-term COVID-19 symptoms, and death.
- Thorough clinical trials with thousands of participants have proven that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for anyone 12 years and older. The Moderna vaccine has proven safe and effective for those 18 years and older. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is still safe and effective, and remains the only one-dose option approved for those 18 years and older. If you have received the J&J vaccine, you are still protected and severe adverse effects are extremely rare.

*\*\*\*[In case of questions about J&J blood clots or 'pause' in use]:*

Out of an abundance of caution, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. After a brief pause and careful investigation, the CDC and FDA recommend resuming the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Following this guidance, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has recommended that North Carolina vaccine providers resume the use of Johnson & Johnson vaccines now that their safety has been reaffirmed.

- At the time of the recommended pause, there were six reported cases of a rare type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. It is important to remember that this potential reaction is very rare—less than one person in 1 million.
- The pause on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine means the vaccine safety system is working as it should. Our safety monitoring system is very thorough, which is how these extremely rare events were identified.

### Ingredients List

The three COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States do not contain eggs, preservatives, fetal tissue, stem cells, mercury or latex.

- Pfizer: mRNA, lipids ((4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis(hexane6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate), 2 [(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,Nditetradecylacetamide, 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, and cholesterol), potassium chloride, monobasic potassium phosphate, sodium chloride, dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate, and sucrose.
- Moderna: Messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA), lipids (SM-102, polyethylene glycol [PEG] 2000 dimyristoyl glycerol [DMG], cholesterol, and 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine [DSPC]), tromethamine, tromethamine hydrochloride, acetic acid, sodium acetate trihydrate, and sucrose.
- J&J: Recombinant, replication-incompetent adenovirus type 26 expressing the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, citric acid monohydrate, trisodium citrate dihydrate, ethanol, 2-hydroxypropyl- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin (HBCD), polysorbate-80, sodium chloride.

### **Slide 14 – Vaccine History**

*No notes*

### **Slide 15 – Why You Should Get Your COVID-19 Vaccine**

- Tested, safe and effective, COVID-19 vaccines will help us get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love.
- Rigorous clinical trials with thousands of people age 12 and over have proven that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. And more than 170 million Americans have been safely vaccinated.
- Scientists had a head start, and thousands of volunteers helped with clinical trials.
- All of the vaccines are tested, safe and effective and lower the chances of getting COVID-19, hospitalization and death.
- You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- The vaccines are free to all regardless of your insurance or immigration status.
- After you are fully vaccinated, you can get back to activities like gathering with other vaccinated friends and family without masks.
- You have a spot to take your shot.

### **Slide 16 – How Vaccines Work and Protect You**

#### **Here is how the COVID-19 vaccines work:**

Vaccines imitate COVID without giving it to you. After you get the vaccine, the vaccine gives your body instructions to make a protein that safely teaches your body to make an antibody to fight the real COVID-19. Your body naturally breaks down or destroys the protein from the vaccine. With these antibodies, you can fight off the real virus if it tries to attack you.

#### ***[If asked if there is a tracker in the vaccine]***

There is no tracker in the vaccine.

#### ***[If asked whether you can get the vaccine even if you've had COVID before]***

Yes. The vaccine works to protect you against a future infection. You don't need a COVID-19 test before vaccination. It is safe to get vaccinated with any authorized COVID-19 vaccine if you have been infected in the past.

#### ***[If asked how long the vaccine will protect you from COVID-19]***

Data so far shows that there is still very high protection levels for at least 6 months after the vaccine. Because of the high level of protection at 6 months, the protection will likely last longer. We'll know even more about how long the immunity from the vaccines lasts as people have been vaccinated for a longer period of time.

### **Slide 17 – Boosters**

To strengthen and extend protections against COVID-19, boosters are now available to all North Carolinians 18 and older. **If you are over 50 or high-risk, you should get a booster now.**

**You are eligible for a booster if:**

- You are 18 or older, and
- You received your second/final dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines more than SIX months ago, or
- You received your Johnson & Johnson vaccine more than TWO months ago.

Get a booster anywhere COVID-19 vaccines are available. Booster doses are free for everyone. No insurance or doctor's note is needed.

**You may receive any brand of COVID-19 vaccine for your booster shot.** Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received and others may prefer to get a different booster. Limited evidence suggests that booster doses of one of the two mRNA vaccines – Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech – more effectively raise antibody levels than a booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. NCDHHS encourages you to speak with a doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have questions about what booster is right for you.

Additionally, fully vaccinated people who received their first COVID-19 vaccines outside of the U.S. or in clinical trials with a brand not currently authorized can now receive a Pfizer booster shot when they are eligible.

You'll need to know the dates of your vaccination and confirm what brand you got originally. Your paper vaccination card is helpful but may not be necessary. At-home vaccination and free transportation may be available.

If you have questions about getting your booster shot, call the NC COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center at 888-675-4567 or visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov).

**Slide 18 – Current Guidance**

After you are fully vaccinated, you can get back to many activities you enjoyed before the pandemic, but for some activities you should still wear a mask. If you are fully vaccinated, you should:

- Wear a mask in all indoor public spaces if you live in an area of high or substantial levels of transmission as defined by the CDC until more people are vaccinated and viral spread decreases.
- Wear a face covering in all schools, child care, indoor settings with a large number of children, public transportation, healthcare settings, high density congregate settings, and large crowded indoor venues.
- Get tested if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Receiving the COVID-19 shot and following the 3 W's is everyone's best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. For more information about what to do after being vaccinated, see NC DHHS's guidance.

## **Slide 19 – Getting Your COVID-19 Shot**

*No notes*

## **Slide 20 – Finding Your Spot**

There are two ways that DHHS can help you find a vaccine appointment!

1) One of the easiest places to start when looking for a vaccine location/provider is our website: my spot dot nc dot gov. Here, you can find a vaccine provider, AND learn more about the vaccines – and all of the information is also available in Spanish.

2) You can also call the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center. They can help you find vaccine locations near you and provide contact information for those locations.

## **Slide 21 – What you will get at your vaccine appointment.**

- A **fact sheet** that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you receive.
- A **vaccination card** that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. Make a back-up of the vaccination card (like taking a photo of it on your phone).
- Ask your vaccine provider about getting started with **v-safe**, a free, smartphone-based tool that uses text messages and online surveys to provide check-ins after you receive your vaccine.

## **Slide 22 – You may get temporary reactions after your vaccine.**

**Like many other vaccines, you could have temporary reactions like a sore arm, fever, headache, or feeling tired and achy for a day or two.** This could be similar to what you might have experienced after a shingles vaccine. These reactions are temporary (which means they'll go away in a day or two), they are not dangerous, and they are actually a good sign that the vaccine is working in your body the way it's supposed to.

### ***[In case of questions about allergic reactions]:***

If people have allergies to ingredients in the two-dose vaccines, then they won't get that vaccine. Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to any vaccine or medicine that is injected should talk about the risks and benefits of the vaccine with their doctor. People with allergies to foods, animals, environmental (such as pollen), latex, or medications taken by

mouth, or who have family members with past severe allergic reactions can be vaccinated with any of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized. So, if you have a peanut allergy, you shouldn't worry about getting vaccinated.

***[In case of questions about fainting with J&J]:***

In addition, some people experience lightheadedness, nausea or fainting (symptoms of vasovagal syncope) after a vaccination. The CDC recommends the following prevention measures:

- Have a beverage or snack before getting your vaccine
- Sit or lie down after you receive your vaccine
- Breathe slowly and deeply before getting the vaccine and think of something relaxing

***[In case of questions about J&J blood clots or 'pause' in use]:***

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### **Slide 23 – Testing and Treatment**

*No notes*

### **Slide 24 – Testing**

Fully vaccinated individuals should get tested if they:

- Are experiencing [symptoms](#) of COVID-19. Anyone experiencing symptoms should get tested immediately.
- Have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19, even if they are not experiencing symptoms. You should get tested within 3-5 days after exposure.
- Are traveling internationally and returning to the United States. Fully vaccinated international travelers are required to get tested three days before travel by air into the U.S. and should also get tested 3-5 days after their trip.

Unvaccinated individuals should get tested if they:

- Are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone experiencing symptoms should get tested immediately.
- Have come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, even if they are not experiencing symptoms. If they do not have symptoms, they should wait at least six days after their last known exposure to COVID-19 before they get tested.
- Take part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed to avoid exposure, such as travel, attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded or poorly ventilated indoor settings.

## **Slide 25 – Treatment: Monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs)**

### **mAbs treatment may help people who:**

- Have tested positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms for 10 days or less; and,
- Are at high risk of getting more serious symptoms.

If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19 and have had symptoms for 10 days or less, talk to your health care provider to see if monoclonal antibody therapy is an option for you or find a [treatment center near you](#). Some people may qualify for preventative treatment before showing symptoms. If you have been exposed to COVID-19, talk to your health care provider for more. All high-risk adults and high-risk youth ages 12-17 who weigh at least 88 pounds may be eligible for treatment.

Your body naturally makes antibodies to fight infection. However, your body may not have antibodies designed to recognize a new virus like SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to allow the use of monoclonal antibody therapies for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in certain high-risk patients.

Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are made in a laboratory to fight a particular infection—in this case, the virus that causes COVID-19—and are given to patients directly with an infusion or a shot. That's why mAb treatment may help patients who are at high risk for severe symptoms or hospitalization.

Some early evidence suggests that mAb treatment can reduce the amount of the virus, or viral load, that causes COVID-19 in a person's body. Having a lower viral load means you may have milder symptoms, which decreases the likelihood hospitalization.

For more information on Monoclonal Antibody treatment, call the **COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibodies Call Center at 1-877-332-6585**

## **Slide 26 – COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11**

*No notes*

### **Slide 27**

Children ages 5 to 11 can now receive a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. The Food and Drug Administration has authorized a lower dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children in this age group, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend all children 5–11 get the vaccine to protect against serious illness and help keep them healthy.

"Children are vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus just like everyone else," said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy K. Cohen, M.D. "The authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine provides a safe, tested

way to protect them from serious illness and provide healthier, happier experiences in and outside of the classroom."

There were no safety concerns or serious side effects noted in the clinical trials. Temporary side effects for kids 5–11 are similar to older kids and adults and may include a sore arm, headache and being tired or achy for a day or so.

Everyone ages 5 and older can receive a free Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, even if they don't have health insurance and regardless of their immigration status.

## **Slide 28 – Clinical Trials**

### About Clinical Trials

Clinical trials began in March 2021. Pfizer-BioNTech began its first study with children ages six months to 11 years old. The first phase of the trial enrolled 4,500 children from more than 90 clinical trial sites around the world.

#### Key points:

- Temporary side effects for the COVID-19 vaccine for kids 5 to 11 were similar to side effects seen in people 16 to 25. In that study, the vaccine was 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19 in children 5 through 11.
- The vaccine's safety was studied in approximately 3,100 children age 5 through 11 who received the vaccine and no serious side effects have been detected in the ongoing study.
  - *This is comparable to the VariVax vaccine (Chickenpox), in which the vaccine's safety was studied in approximately 4,240 children, age 1 – 12, in early clinical trials. (Source: [https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi\\_circulars/v/varivax/varivax\\_pi.pdf](https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/v/varivax/varivax_pi.pdf))*
  - Ongoing Safety Monitoring: the FDA and the CDC have several systems in place to continually monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety and allow for the rapid detection and investigation of potential safety problems.

#### **[If asked about demographic information from Pfizer's 5 – 11 clinical trials]**

Trials included volunteers from different races and ethnicities:

- 77% White
- 6% African American/Black
- 8% Asian
- 17% Hispanic/Latinx

- 7% Multiracial,
- Other race <1%

**[If asked about safety, ongoing monitoring or myocarditis]**

Ongoing Safety Monitoring and Myocarditis/Pericarditis

Pfizer Inc. has updated its safety monitoring plan to include evaluation of myocarditis, pericarditis and other events of interest in children 5 through 11 years of age. In addition, the FDA and the CDC have several systems in place to continually monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety and allow for the rapid detection and investigation of potential safety problems.

It is mandatory for Pfizer Inc. and vaccination providers to report to any serious adverse events, cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome and cases of COVID-19 that result in hospitalization or death in vaccinated individuals. It is also mandatory for vaccination providers to report all vaccine administration errors to VAERS for which they become aware and for Pfizer Inc. to include a summary and analysis of all identified vaccine administration errors in monthly safety reports to the FDA.

FDA Evaluation of Available Safety Data

The available safety data to support the EUA include more than 4,600 participants (3,100 vaccine, 1,538 placebo) ages 5 through 11 years enrolled in the ongoing study. In this trial, a total of 1,444 vaccine recipients were followed for safety for at least 2 months after the second dose.

Commonly reported side effects in the clinical trial included injection site pain (sore arm), redness and swelling, fatigue, headache, muscle and/or joint pain, chills, fever, swollen lymph nodes, nausea and decreased appetite. More children reported side effects after the second dose than after the first dose. Side effects were generally mild to moderate in severity and occurred within two days after vaccination, and most went away within one to two days.

The FDA and CDC safety surveillance systems have previously identified increased risks of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of tissue surrounding the heart) following vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, particularly following the second dose, and with the observed risk highest in males 12 through 17 years of age. Therefore, the FDA conducted its own benefit-risk assessment using modelling to predict how many symptomatic COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and deaths from COVID-19 the vaccine in children 5 through 11 years of age would prevent versus the number of potential myocarditis cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths that the vaccine might cause. The FDA's model predicts that overall, the benefits of the vaccine would outweigh its risks in children 5 through 11 years of age.

**[If asked about Emergency Use Authorization]**

## FDA Evaluation of Available Effectiveness Data

The effectiveness data to support the EUA in children down to 5 years of age is based on an ongoing randomized, placebo-controlled study that has enrolled approximately 4,700 children 5 through 11 years of age. The study is being conducted in the U.S., Finland, Poland and Spain. Children in the vaccine group received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine containing 10 micrograms of messenger RNA per dose. The FDA analyzed data that compared the immune response of 264 participants from this study to 253 participants 16 through 25 years of age who had two higher doses of the vaccine in a previous study which determined the vaccine to be effective in preventing COVID-19. The immune responses of the younger age participants were comparable to the older participants.

The FDA also conducted a preliminary analysis of cases of COVID-19 occurring seven days after the second dose. In this analysis, among participants without evidence of prior infection with SARS-CoV-2, 3 cases of COVID-19 occurred among 1,305 vaccine recipients and 16 cases of COVID-19 occurred among 663 placebo recipients; the vaccine was 90.7% effective in preventing COVID-19.

### **Slide 29 – How the Vaccines Work to Protect Your Child**

No notes.

### **Slide 30 Temporary Side Effects**

Temporary side effects for the COVID-19 vaccine for kids 5 to 11 were similar to side effects seen in people 16 to 25. Your child may temporarily experience a sore arm, headache and being tired or achy for a day or so. **These temporary reactions are a good sign that the vaccine is working and should go away within a few days.**

COVID-19 vaccines protect your child from serious illness. The risks of serious side effects from the vaccine are far less than the risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

An extremely rare side effect of the vaccine seen in some studies, but not with young children so far, is myocarditis, or heart muscle inflammation. Myocarditis has been seen in some older adolescent and young males, with mostly mild cases. People usually recover on their own or need minimal treatment. **No cases of myocarditis were seen in children age 5-11 in the clinical trials.**

Ongoing safety surveillance will continue to determine if this rare occurrence is a risk to younger children.

**[If asked on whether a child should stay home from school after getting vaccinated]**

Every child will be different, but kids may be sore or tired. If you are able to, consider getting your child vaccinated on a day when they could rest.

### **Slide 31 – Getting Vaccinated**

Visit MySpot.nc.gov or call 1-800-675-4567 to find a vaccination location for children age 5-11 near you.

### **Slide 32 – Vaccines for Adolescents**

***\*\*If asked whether people under the age of 18 can get a COVID-19 vaccine without parental consent?***

A new state law requires that a parent or legal guardian provide written consent for anyone under 18 to receive a vaccine that has emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Once a vaccine is fully approved by the FDA written consent is no longer required, however it is expected that for most teens, information about vaccination with parents and guardians and parental/guardian consent will be obtained for COVID-19 vaccination. North Carolina law also gives people under the age of 18 the ability to make certain health decisions, including the choice to get a COVID-19 vaccine, if they show the decisional capacity to do so. Decisional capacity is a person's ability to understand their health and health care needs and options, and to make decisions about them. As part of normal development most children are able to make these kinds of decisions like an adult at some point before the age of 18. There is no one age at which this always occurs; it varies from child to child. On August 23, 2021, the FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine (now marketed as Comirnaty) for anyone 16 and older. Therefore, written consent from parent or a legal guardian is required for teens ages 12 to 15 year. Approval for this age group is expected at a later date as Pfizer was authorized for teens ages 12 to 15 years, six months after it was authorized for people 16 and older

***\*\*If asked why the Pfizer vaccine for teens ages 12-15 is still under EUA?\****

FDA approval for this age group will come later because it wasn't authorized for younger teens until May 2021, six months after it was granted EUA for people 16 and older.

### **Slide 33 – Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Slide 34 – What are Post-Vaccination Cases – or “Breakthroughs”?**

Our overriding concern is with the increasing number of avoidable cases of COVID-19 among the unvaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccines in use in the United States are still reducing the risk of severe disease, going to the hospital and death, **even against the Delta variant.**

If you are not vaccinated, your risk of severe illness and death is much higher. Nearly all cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death continue to occur among those not yet vaccinated. Vaccines save lives.

It is critical that unvaccinated and partially vaccinated people get fully vaccinated to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and its more severe outcomes. **Nearly all cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death continue to occur among those not fully vaccinated.**

We need to layer up our protection to fight this more dangerous Delta variant and weather the storm: Vax up, mask up and urge others to do the same.

Tested, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are the best tool for preventing all cases of COVID-19. Don't wait to vaccinate.

### **Slide 35 – Can I get the vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?**

- Yes. Pregnant and breastfeeding women can receive any of the available COVID-19 vaccines.
- Pregnant women with COVID-19 have a higher risk of being hospitalized and needing care in the ICU as well as may have a higher risk of problems for the baby.
- Pregnant women can talk with their doctors about their vaccine decision. You can also consult [MotherToBaby.org](https://www.mothertobaby.org) or call 1-866-626-6847
- Women who are breastfeeding can also receive any of the available vaccines. The vaccine is not thought to be a risk to a baby who is breastfeeding.

### **Slide 36 – Should I be concerned about the impact of the vaccine on my fertility?**

- No. If you are planning to become pregnant, you can receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends vaccination for all eligible people, including those who may want to get pregnant.
- Women in the clinical trials successfully became pregnant following vaccination, and there have been no safety data to suggest that the vaccines impact the ability of a woman to get pregnant.
- Similarly, the Society for Male Reproduction and Urology recommends that men who want to be fathers should be encouraged to get vaccinated. **Recent studies have also shown that COVID-19 increases the risk of developing erectile dysfunction (ED) by nearly six times.**

### **Slide 37 – How do I access my vaccine records or proof of COVID-19 vaccination?**

You may need to show your COVID-19 vaccine information to businesses or venues. The NC COVID-19 Vaccine Portal is a free, fast and secure way for many North Carolinians to present proof of COVID-19 vaccination or print a copy of your COVID-19 vaccine information for other purposes.

Many North Carolinians can access their COVID-19 vaccine information in the North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Portal, including anyone who:

- Received their COVID-19 vaccine from a North Carolina provider, AND
- Provided an email address to a North Carolina vaccine provider

“If you don’t have an email address, you can still get your shot but you will need to hold onto your paper copy.”

### **Need additional help?**

Contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center at (888) 675-4567 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

### **List of Federal Retail Pharmacy Partners:**

- Costco Wholesale Corp.
- CPESN USA, LLC
- CVS Pharmacy, Inc. (including Long’s)
- Good Neighbor Pharmacy and AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation’s pharmacy services administrative organization (PSAO), Elevate Provider Network
- Health Mart Pharmacies
- LeaderNET and The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy, Cardinal Health’s PSAOs
- Publix Super Markets, Inc.
- Retail Business Services, LLC (including Food Lion, Giant Food, The Giant Company, Hannaford Bros Co, Stop & Shop)
- The Kroger Co. (including Kroger, Harris Teeter, Fred Meyer, Fry’s, Ralphs, King Soopers, Smiths, City Market, Dillons, Mariano’s, Pick-n-Save, Copps, Metro Market, QFC)
- Topco Associates, LLC (including Acme Fresh Markets, Associated Food Stores, Bashas, Big-Y Pharmacy and Wellness Center, Brookshire’s Pharmacy, Super One Pharmacy, FRESH by Brookshire’s Pharmacy, Coborn’s Pharmacy, Cash Wise Pharmacy, MarketPlace Pharmacy, Giant Eagle, Hartig Drug Company, King Kullen, Food City Pharmacy, Ingles Pharmacy, Raley’s, Bel Air, Nob Hill Pharmacies, Save Mart Pharmacies, Lucky Pharmacies, SpartanNash, Price Chopper, Market 32, Tops Friendly Markets, ShopRite, Wegmans, Weis Markets, Inc.)
- Walgreens (including Duane Reade)
- Walmart, Inc. (including Sam’s Club)

### **Slide 38 – Do people who have had COVID-19 still need to be vaccinated?**

- Yes. The vaccine works to protect you against a future infection. You don't need a COVID-19 test before vaccination.
- It is safe to get vaccinated with any of the authorized vaccines if you have been infected in the past.
- If you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- People who are actively sick with COVID-19 should wait until they have recovered and can no longer spread the virus before getting their vaccine.

### **Slide 39 – Resources**

*No notes*

### **Slide 40 – Resources**

Additional Resources:

- **Vaccine Location Finder:** [www.MySpot.nc.gov](http://www.MySpot.nc.gov)
- **At-Home Vaccine Providers:** <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/home-vaccine-providers>
- **NCDHHS Video Library:** <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/video-library>
- **Teen Vaccine Information:** [www.TeenVaxFacts.com](http://www.TeenVaxFacts.com)
- **mAbs Treatment:** <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/treatment>
- **General Information, Guidance and Updates on COVID-19:** <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>

If you have additional questions, comments or feedback you'd like to share or have answered, please [email: vaccine101@ncdhhs vaccine.com](mailto:vaccine101@ncdhhs vaccine.com)

**\*\*\*Note for Presenter: Remember to log COVID 101 presentation**

**at:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9a65X1tA4u0SP5sX00JttvuryoWkreTDQ7jTemGEnpoR7\\_w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9a65X1tA4u0SP5sX00JttvuryoWkreTDQ7jTemGEnpoR7_w/viewform)