

**COVID Update from Dr. Sara Knuston  
Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

**Vaccine information:**

- 1) NEJM pdf showing summarizing important aspects of the Pfizer vaccine-it is highly efficacious, very safe, and recipients have some benefit as early as 12 days after the 1st shot!
- 2) EUA Fact Sheet for the Pfizer vaccine: this is what will be given to vaccine recipients.
- 3) Pfizer power point: What clinicians need to know about the COVID vaccine-by my read, only contraindicated in those with a prior history of a severe allergic reaction; pregnant/breastfeeding/immunocompromised may wish to consult with their provider prior to vaccine
- 4) \*\*OB providers, see attached ACOG vaccine recs for pregnant patients, and be prepared to counsel your patients with questions

**Links to CDC sites to facilitate discussion with patient about getting vaccines:**

FAQ's: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/healthcare-professionals-vaccine-quick-answers.pdf>

Engaging with patients: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/engaging-patients.html>

Answering patient questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/answering-questions.html>

**Elective Surgeries:**

- 1) New Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation article regarding when is a patient with COVID no longer infectious, and what is the duration of the increased M &M post COVID with respect to elective surgery:
- 2) Lancet article: M&M implication of peri/post COVID surgery:

**Testing/Therapeutics:**

- 1) BINAX antigen testing: useful when positive for symptomatic patient within 5 days of symptom onset. Lower sensitivity; maybe useful for symptomatic patients and staff but if clinical story compelling, needs confirmatory testing if negative. This test once available will be designated as such in the result, and will help spare our Abbott ID Now POC test use when appropriate. More on this to come.

- 2) Monoclonal antibody: good therapeutic for COVID positive patients with mild illness who are at higher risk for disease progression. not enough to go around; will be administered in CO by lottery. We are working on a location and protocol for this treatment.

### **Home Care of COVID + patients on low flow O2:**

Jen Craig is working on a protocol to allow home discharge from ED for lower risk patients on low flow O2. This will prove useful as our inpatient beds are in increasingly short supply. Once this protocol is in place, it will be the responsibility of the primary care providers (who will be made aware of the patient status by the ED navigator) to ensure appropriate monitoring for any clinical decline via telehealth visits. Home health can also be involved in the care of these patients if desired by the provider.

\*\*\*As everyone should know, we will be getting the Pfizer vaccine this week.

If you are interested in getting your 1st dose of vaccine now, contact Ramona Frazier right away (**phone number to schedule is 874-2435**) to get on the list and get scheduled for an appointment. Thur/Fri/Sat this week, then early next week.

All providers and their staff who may be engaged in clinical encounters with COVID patients are eligible for vaccination in this first phase.

\*\*You must make sure you will be available for a booster at 21 days. With the expected side effects, you may wish to time the vaccine with your clinical responsibilities in mind.

\*\*Note that prior to earlier recommendations, even if you have had COVID within the last 3 months you should go ahead and get the vaccine.