**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID VACCINE**

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| **INFORMATION ABOUT THE COVID VACCINES** | |
| **QUESTIONS** | **ANSWERS** |
| What vaccines will we be receiving at the church? | Currently there are 2 vaccines being distributed in Minnesota – Pfizer and Moderna. Individuals who received the vaccine at FMBC on February 11th or March 4th received the Pfizer vaccine.  FMBC is working to offer additional vaccination events at the church. As soon as those become available more details will be provided. |
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| How many shots will we receive? | There are 2 shots that will be given. The second one will be given 21 days after the first |
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| What side effects can I expect from the vaccine? | There are short-term mild or moderate vaccine reactions that resolve without complication or injury. The early phase studies of the Pfizer vaccine show that it is safe. About 15% of people developed short lived symptoms at the site of the injection. 50% developed reactions primarily headache, chills, fatigue or muscle pain or fever lasting for a day or two. Keep in mind that these side effects are indicators that your immune system is responding to the vaccine and are common when receiving vaccines.  Younger people are more likely to have vaccine reactions since they have active immune systems.  Older patients are less likely to have vaccine reactions because their immune defense symptoms are less robust. |
| Should people with allergies get the vaccine? | If you have food allergies or allergies to trees, pollen, dust it is safe to receive the vaccine.  If you have had a severe reaction to any vaccine in the past, such that you have had difficulty breathing and had to go to the hospital, then you should probably discuss with your doctor before you take the vaccine |

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| **CONCERNS ABOUT VACCINE DEVELOPMENT** | |
| Should we be concerned about the speed at which the COVID vaccine was developed? | Probably not. Research on MRNA vaccines have been going on for about 10 years with other COVID type vaccines against diseases such as SARS.  Development of the COVID 19 vaccine occurred quickly because there was already scientific information available and billions of dollars put into the development of these vaccines to ensure that they could be developed quickly |
| Did people of color participate in vaccine trials? | In the tests done to determine the safety of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine, 10 % were African Americans  Pfizer had 49,000 patients about 400 were African Americans  Moderna had 27,000 people in their trials and 270 were African Americans |

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| **AFTER I RECEIVE THE VACCINE** | |
| How long does immunity from the vaccine last? Will we have to get repeated doses like we do for the flu vaccine | We are not sure . Further tests are going on to determine the answer to that question . Because vaccine mutate or change , we nmay have to get a booster vaccine every ryear , just like we do wittheh influenza vaccine |
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| Will the vaccine prevent me from getting COVID? | The current vaccines will prevent you from getting severe disease if you manage by some chance to contract the disease, We think that you may still get asymptomatic disease that does not make you sick , but you may still be able to pass on to others. |
| Do I continue to wear a mask after I get the vaccine? | Yes, for the reasons that you may get asymptomatic COVID and may have the potential to pass on to others |
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| **COVID VACCINES AND NEW VARIANTS OF THE DISEASE** | |
| Does the Vaccine prevent against new variants of the disease? | Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are believed to protect against the UK variant.  The Johnson& Johnson which is soon to be released has been shown to have some effectiveness against the South African variant of the COVID 19 virus. |

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| **COVID VACCINES AND BLACK AMERICANS** | |
| Were African Americans included in the trials to determine the safety of these vaccines ? | Yes. The Pfizer vaccine had 49,000 human subjects of whom 10 % or 4900 were African Americans  Moderna had 27,500 subjects, of whom about 2750 were African Americans |
| Why are Black Americans suspicious of the vaccines? | Black Americans have been very badly treated by the American health care system which has performed unethical experiments and treatments on us. It is no surprise that Blacks have very little trust in a system that has seriously exploited us or sometimes withheld treatment from us. We remain suspicious of new treatments or clinical research. |
| Why should people of color receive the COVID vaccines? | Blacks have higher risk of contracting COVID because of preexisting medical conditions. Diseases like chronic kidney disease, diabetes, obesity, heart disease pre dispose us to severe COVId disease.  We contract COVID almost 2x as much as Whites,  We are hospitalized from COVID 4 times more than whites and  We die 3 times as much as Whites from COVID.  A COVID vaccine is our only line of prevention against COVID, since there is no known cure for the disease |