

# UVM ScholarWorks

## Educating Patients on the COVID-19 Vaccination

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# COVID-19 Vaccination Patient Education

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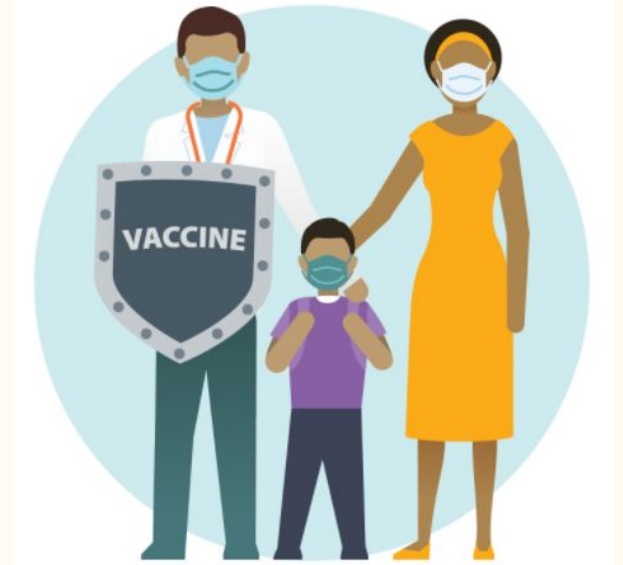
# Patient education on COVID-19 Vaccine

- **Vaccines are an essential tool to stop the spread of COVID-19**
  - The more people that get vaccinated, the faster we can end the pandemic
- Misinformation regarding the vaccine have already emerged on social media platforms, eroding public confidence and contributing to vaccine hesitancy <sup>(2)</sup> <sup>(6)</sup>
- Therefore, it is imperative that the medical community works together to combat the spread of misinformation
  - A recent study have shown that participants were more likely to get vaccinated if they thought their healthcare providers would recommend vaccination <sup>(5)</sup>



# Public health cost

- The COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted our communities and economies, while imposing enormous burdens in morbidity and mortality
  - In Vermont there have been 13,917 cases of COVID-19 and 191 deaths <sup>(8)</sup>
    - Chittenden County accounts for most of these cases with a total of 4,481 <sup>(8)</sup>



# Community Perspective

- Phyllis Martin, Hinesburg Family Medicine Administrative Support
  - Hands out vaccine flyers and engages with patients at the front desk, gets 10-15 calls daily from patients daily asking questions about the vaccine, but mostly wondering if they can schedule their vaccine with the practice
  - Feels the community is overall very “uninformed” about the vaccine and the process to sign up
- Michelle Cangiano, MD, Family Medicine Physician
  - There is a lot of “misinformation in the media,” patients are getting their information from many different sources. They are confused as to what is real and what is not.
  - Patients are frequently asking questions about the vaccine and how to sign up during their visits
- Rachel Humphrey, MD, Family Medicine Physician
  - “I think that people are mostly getting their education from the media and I think there is a lot of misinformation. I think that what will sway more people is simply seeing more and more people get the vaccine. There are a lot of fears that are illogic, but it is mostly just fear of the unknown.”
- Patrick Fylnn, LPN, Family Medicine
  - “The main thing patients have been asking about the vaccine is when and where can I get it? They also inquire about side effects. I have also heard some conspicuous theories about patients being monitored through the vaccine. I think people will benefit from more factually-based education.”

# Intervention and Methodology

Queried practice providers to include frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine



Used this information to create a educational flyer describing the vaccine



Upon arrival at the clinic administrative support staff provides flyer to patients, allowing patients time to read flyers while waiting for their appointment



Patients are then able to ask questions and voice concerns to their providers at their appointment

# Results and response data

- Nearly every patient that came to clinic was offered an informational flyer
- Received positive feedback from staff and patients
- Patients continue to spark conversation with their providers regarding the COVID-19 vaccine

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## COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education

### Basic Overview

- The Covid-19 vaccine utilizes messenger RNA (mRNA), a type of technology that has been in existence for over a decade.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus and therefore do not carry a risk of causing disease.
- In both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine trials, there were thousands of participants, representing a diverse pool of ethnicities and age ranges.
  - Both mRNA vaccines were 95% effective in preventing COVID-19.



### Frequently asked questions

#### ***Should I get the vaccine if I have had anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction)?***

- Yes, you will be monitored after the vaccine administration for a longer period of time. Please talk to your doctor for more information.

#### ***How was this vaccine developed so quickly?***

- There was increased funding. Funding is a usual cause of delay.
- Research was put on hold for everything besides the Covid-19 vaccine, this had not happened in the past.
- The science behind the vaccine was built on previous vaccine research, the difference was that production of the vaccine started ramping up prior to the completion of research trials.

#### ***Is this vaccine safe?***

- The vaccine went through intense medical review, data safety monitoring boards, vaccine project monitoring boards, and the CDC advisory committee. They are an independent group of scientists with no connections to government or drug companies.

Please refer to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19) or [www.uvmhealth.org/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.uvmhealth.org/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine) for more information.

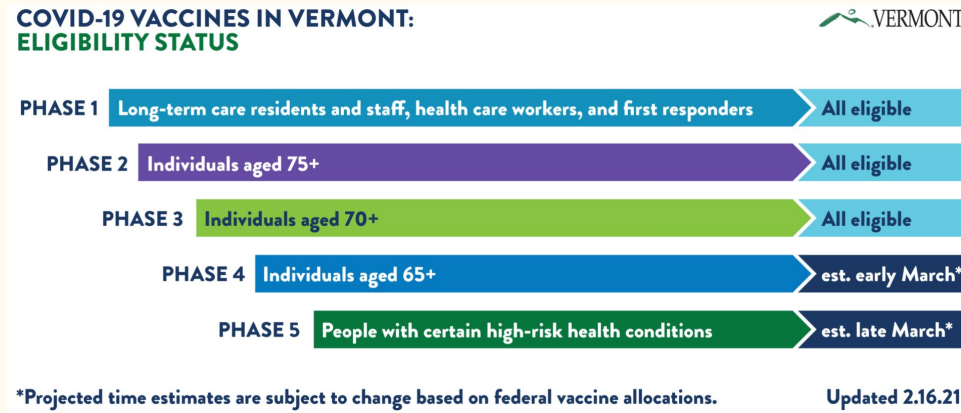
# Evaluation of effectiveness and limitations

- Clinic rooming staff and providers agree that the flyer has been helpful in promoting conversations about the COVID-19 vaccine
  - Allows some frequently asked questions to be answered prior to appointments
- Some limitations include the inability to assess whether or not the flyer is successfully answering patients' questions or if they feel more knowledgeable about the vaccine after reading the flyer



# Recommendations for future interventions and projects

- Recommend dispersing this information to patients outside of clinic, including telemedicine patients and patients not scheduled
- Make sure patients are kept up-to-date on vaccine eligibility schedules
- Practices providing patient with a more detailed “how-to” schedule their COVID vaccines and where they are available
- Survey patients at the end of their visit asking any further questions or concerns they may have after reading the flyer and asking their provider any questions they have about the vaccine



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Unless otherwise notes, images were provided by CDC COVID-19 website.