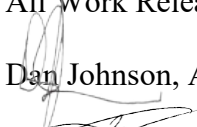




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
P.O. Box 41100 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1100

April 6, 2021

TO: All Incarcerated Individuals
All Work Release Residents

FROM: Dan Johnson, Assistant Secretary, Health Services

Frank Longano, Deputy Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Survey/Upcoming Vaccine Opportunities

On March 22, 2021, we shared updated phase information and information about the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. All department staff and all incarcerated individuals are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, which means the department will be preparing to offer vaccine doses to those which to become vaccinated.

Health Services needs your help to be sure that enough doses are available for those who wish to receive them. For those at prison facilities, local surveys will be conducted in order for you to indicate your willingness to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

As efforts are made to provide even more opportunities for COVID-19 vaccination, both Moderna and J&J may be available at your site. Where both are available, you will be able to choose between the two vaccines. While our goal is to offer both vaccines at every location, many sites may only have one option available at any given time.

In order to assist you in making the best possible decision for your health when both vaccines are an option, we are providing a brief comparison of the two vaccines DOC will be able to offer. The following information is based on published clinical trial data and United States' Centers for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 vaccine clinical guidance. When comparing the data for these two vaccines it is critical to note that they are not directly comparable to each other, since both trials were performed in different places with different rates of variant virus, at different times, and not compared head-to-head in the same trial. However, we do know that both vaccines have extremely high efficacy in the most important outcome: preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. In fact, none of the clinical trial patients who were fully vaccinated with either vaccine (defined as 28 days after a single dose of J&J or 14 days after the second dose of Moderna) died or were hospitalized for COVID-19 disease. Therefore, you may not want to delay vaccination while waiting for the other option to become available.

The chart below simplifies some differences and similarities between the two vaccines that may assist in your decision making:

“Working Together for SAFER Communities”

COVID-19 vaccine comparison: Moderna and Johnson & Johnson

	Moderna	Johnson and Johnson
Vaccine type	mRNA	Viral vector
Number of patients in clinical trial	30,420	39,058
Overall efficacy	94.1%	66.9%
Effectiveness against severe disease and hospitalization	100% and 100%	85.4% and 100%
Deaths from COVID-19 in vaccinated trial patients	NONE	NONE
Number of doses	2 doses 28 days apart	1 dose
Side Effects	90% Local [*] , 80% Systemic ^{**}	50% Local [*] , 55% Systemic ^{**}

*Local side effects were similar for both vaccines: pain, swelling, or redness at the injection site

**Systemic symptoms were similar for both vaccines: fever, chills, muscle aches, headache

We want to support all DOC staff and incarcerated individuals around vaccination decision making in the coming months. We hope this information is helpful to you in making the best choice for the health of you and your family. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please view DOC’s Frequently Asked Questions which will be posted in your living units. We will continue to provide relevant information as more guidance is made available.

Thank you for all you are doing to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to wear your mask, stay six feet apart from others whenever possible and perform hand hygiene frequently.