

Colleges of the Fenway Community Vaccine Information Session & Town Hall Question Report

May 20, 2021

#	Question Details	Answer(s)
1	Is the college proposing that vaccines not approved by the FDA be required for students?	Each college has communicated their protocol on requiring the vaccine. We will be discussing the FDA status later in the presentation.
2	Do you agree with the CDC's recommendation that fully vaccinated people don't need to wear masks?	Healthcare providers and staff sometimes do have differing opinions on the efficacy of masking and the optimal approaches to preventing COVID. Generally we trust the CDC and Mass DPH and are going by their guidance and recommendations.
3	I am more scared of getting the vaccine than catching coronavirus. That shouldn't be the case yet it is for a lot of Americans hesitant to get the vaccine.	We understand this is a common concern, thank you for sharing this. It's important to share the facts about the vaccine so people understand that it is safe. We know that the virus is dangerous and deadly, but thankfully we know that the vaccine is safe and can prevent deaths and disease.
4	Is the college proposing that vaccines not authorized by the FDA be required for students?	We are recommending the vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the FDA and recommended by the CDC and the state which include Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. In addition, vaccines approved by the WHO are also accepted.
5	For international students, do we have to arrive earlier for the vaccine or can we get vaccinated when we arrive in late August/September? (MCPHS Student)	We'd recommend reaching out to the MCPHS to discuss the specific logistics on your move in timeline and the vaccine requirement.
6	It is my understanding that the vaccine does not prevent one from getting the virus, one could be vaccine and still get the virus. Is this incorrect?	That is correct. While the vaccines do not 100% prevent you from getting the virus, it does prevent you from hospitalization or death from the virus. It is still possible to get the virus, however if you are fully vaccinated you will be protected from getting sick, and are less likely to pass the virus to other people. The more people who are vaccinated, the less the virus will be spreading around the community so more vaccinations means you will be less likely to get the virus overall as well.
7	What is the guideline for international students getting the vaccine if not available in their country but want to attend campus in the Fall?	Your campus may be able to help you get vaccinated with one of the approved vaccines once you arrive to campus in the fall, but you should talk directly to your school about what requirements or protocols they may have, as well as any special conditions about traveling internationally.

8	Why do all the experts recently only seem to refer to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines and don't mention J&J? Are they not as confident about it?	I don't think this is intentional. All 3 vaccines are strongly recommended. Women under the age of 50 should read about the very small increased risk of blood clots and if they are concerned then please choose the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.
9	If you had COVID and have evidence of antibodies, what are the benefits, if any, receiving the vaccine?	If you have recovered from COVID, it's anticipated that you have natural immunity for 3 months after recovering. Vaccines have shown at least 9 months of immunity so the protection is longer and stronger from a vaccine. Additionally, many people who have long-COVID (symptoms lasting months after initial infection) report their symptoms improving after receiving the vaccine. There is evidence that the vaccines are effective against the new variants as well.
10	Will we be discussing mask policies for COF schools, or is this something to address at a different time with our individual schools? Thanks!	We recommend reaching out to your individual COVID leaders to discuss a specific policy for your school.
11	Can you provide the data that shows that the vaccine has no side effect when it comes to fertility? Are there studies? It's a shame to attempt to say that something is safe because of the lack of studies about its safety.	There is scientific evidence about how COVID antibodies do not affect fertility, as there has not been any decrease in fertility despite the millions of people who have been infected by the virus and have natural immunity. No vaccine has ever impacted fertility.
12	If I am fully vaccinated, is there any reason for hesitation about dining indoors or seeing a movie?	Please refer to the CDC's website on when fully vaccinated individuals should continue wearing masks (ie public transit). If you are 2 weeks since your last dose of the covid-19 vaccine then you are safe to dine indoors and go to a movie theatre.
13	Will other vaccines be available soon (such as Covaxin)? I would prefer an inactivated vaccine that targets the entire virus rather than just the spike protein.	The FDA is currently reviewing the Aztra-Zenca and Novavax vaccines for approval in the US, there may be others in the future if they apply for FDA approval.
14	Since getting the vaccines, I have been very sick and wondered if there were "side effects" to the vaccine. I felt fine before I had the vaccines. My PCP seems to think there are no worries, but this has been going on now for 8 weeks. What might I do?	Unfortunately can't give a good answer to this without having specific knowledge about your health and situation, so I would have to direct you to follow up with your doctor or an allergist re next steps.
15	Is there a possibility that covid vaccine will become an annual vaccine similarly to the flu shot?	There is a chance the covid vaccine may be an annual vaccine (like the flu vaccine), but we don't know yet as how long immunity lasts.
16	How can we know if we're allergic to an ingredient if we've never been exposed to it?	Just like with medications, food, etc there's no way to know definitively if someone is allergic to something without having some sort of exposure to it. There are some allergens that cross-react, so an allergy to one substance could predict allergy to another in some cases.
17	What about religious exemption? Will we be allowed in campus with a religious exemption?	There are some religious exemptions allowed to vaccine requirements. You should talk to your campus's health center or administrators about the process to request an exemption.

18	What would happen if a person got more than one of the available vaccines? e.g., 1st and 2nd shot of Pfizer and 1st 2nd shot of Moderna? or 1st of Pfizer and 1st of Moderna?	It is not recommended to mix types of vaccines. People should get 2 doses of Pfizer or 2 doses of Moderna.
19	For someone who's already had COVID-19 in the past 6 months, will this be an exemption for getting the vaccine before the Fall 2021 semester at MCPHS? Lots of research shows natural immunity is in line with or better than getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Can you address what the exemptions from the vaccine will look like?	Please reach out to the MCPHS COVID team for a specific answer on their exemption process. The science is showing that vaccines are more protective than natural immunity.
20	With the COVID-19 vaccines being a new form of vaccine type (i.e. mRNA vaccines), what other new vaccine types are being researched to maximize the body's immune response?	Currently, mRNA (Moderna/Pfizer) and viral vector (Janssen) vaccines are EUA approved. Novavax is a protein based covid vaccine that is currently in clinical trials and contains an inactive protein that is found on the coronavirus surface (the spike protein)
21	Will students be required to get the booster shots when they are inevitably mandated?	We do not know yet. I'm sure we will be hearing more info about boosters over the next few months.
22	Are vaccines required for new COF students?	The state of MA mandates specific vaccines. If you are an incoming student please check with the Health Services dept at your school.
23	Who is responsible for enforcing mask-wearing / social distancing on campus? Does staff have a responsibility to report? Who would we report to?	Each school has their own protocol, so we recommend following up with leaders from your school on their policy and how they implement it.
24	This group may not know the answer, however why were white individuals included in the testing of the vaccine higher than other ethnic groups? Do you think it was personal or governmental choice?	We'll look into this, please feel free to reach out for a follow up response.
25	How can there be relevant evidence about fertility safety in such a short amount of time? Not even enough time for babies to be born! Where's the science in this?	I would recommend looking at the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) website. They are a reputable professional society that has information online on the use and safety of the COVID vaccines in pregnant and lactating people. There was a false report that circulated around social media stating that mRNA vaccines were targeting a protein that is important for pregnancy, however there is no information that actually supports this claim. During vaccine trials, women who were vaccinated have since become pregnant.
26	I know it's hard to predict, but in your professional opinions, is there a chance (with variants, increased travel and/or people reluctant to get vaccinated) that we might have to go back to remote this winter?	This is very hard to predict but we are all working hard to prevent this!
27	My college requires students to be vaccinated by September. If I received the first dose but still haven't received the second dose (Moderna, Pfizer), am I allowed on campus? I'm an international student.	Please check with your individual school with this questions.

28	If vaccines are required for MassArt students, does that mean fully vaccinated people can do full in-person learning there?	Each department at MassArt has their own plans for in-person learning, however capacity on campus will be increasing.
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