

## **PARISH NURSE'S NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2020**

### **Facts regarding the Pfizer-Biontech COVID-19 vaccine to prevent Coronavirus disease in individuals 16 years of age and older**

The Pfizer vaccine has arrived at Winchester Medical Center in Winchester. Over the weekend I was oriented to the process of the delivery to the healthcare workers first. They have requested volunteers from Shenandoah University nursing faculty and of course they are using hospital staff – RNs, LPNs, physicians.

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. This type of coronavirus has not been seen before. It is predominantly a respiratory disease that can affect other organs.

The FDA has authorized the emergency use of the vaccine in individuals 16 years of age and older.

What should you mention to your vaccination provider before you get the vaccine? Have any allergies, have fever, if on a blood thinner, are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that effects your immune system, pregnant or plan to become pregnant, breastfeeding, have received another COVID-19 vaccine

Who should NOT get the vaccine? 1) had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine, 2) had a severe reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine. I'm not going to list them all here. If you want to know the ingredients, email me and I will list them for you.

The injection is given IM (intramuscular) into the non-dominant arm's deltoid muscle (upper arm).

The vaccination series is given in two doses given 3 weeks apart

Side effects to the vaccine include: injection site pain, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, injection site redness/swelling, nausea, feeling unwell, swollen lymph nodes.

There is a remote chance that after the vaccine, one could have a severe allergic reaction. People receiving the vaccine will be held 15 minutes after the injection and monitored by clinical staff.

**The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine does NOT contain SARS-CoV-2 and CANNOT give you COVID-19**

Most recent Facts: [www.cvdvaccine.com](http://www.cvdvaccine.com)

Learn more: CDC – <https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>