“Vaccines Were Developed Too Quickly”
Harnessing technologic advances and building on earlier research led to early success

- Ten days after the first reported cases in China, the SARS-CoV-2 virus was sequenced and made public
- The importance of spike protein in vaccine development of vaccines for SARS-CoV-1 in 2002 and MERS-CoV in 2012 helped jumpstart the COVID-19 vaccine efforts in Jan 2020
- Delivery systems used for COVID-19 vaccines have been in development since the 1970s (Adenovirus vector, mRNA)

“FDA Evaluation Was Rushed”
Efficiencies in meeting FDA requirements, scaling up production, and prioritized review saved time

- Manufacturing process developed in parallel to clinical trials (Operation Warp Speed)
- Required FDA Review and CDC Advisory Committee meetings were prioritized scheduled expeditiously; eliminating the typical scheduling delays.

“Trials Were Too Short to Detect Long Term Effects”
COVID-19 vaccine trials had similar size and duration of preceding vaccines with full approval

- High incidence allowed quick achievement of clinical endpoints (adaptive trial design), but monitoring for serious adverse events continued for 6 months after the final dose
- Previous vaccines with unanticipated effects were detected within 8 weeks of vaccination during the pre-approval trials—that’s why FDA required a minimum of 8 weeks
- No vaccine approved/authorized for use in the United States has been definitively associated with long-lasting, on-going effects. Monitoring and research continue after authorization for as long as the vaccine is in use (e.g., VAERS, V-safe)
- 150 million+ COVID-19 vaccine first doses administered in the US: CDC is already able to detected events occurring <1/million doses

“COVID-19 Is Usually Mild in Healthy People”
Risks of relying on post-infection immunity

- Serious illness or death, even among younger adults
- Spreading COVID-19 to family and community when pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic
- Asymptomatic and mild illness provide weak and time limited immunity (CDC recommends post-infection vaccination)
- Post-acute symptoms or “long” COVID-19 syndrome

Benefits of immunity through vaccination

- Provides the same viral antigens as infection but without symptoms of COVID-19
- Symptoms caused by vaccination may occur, but are mild, short lived (2-3 days)
- Proven effectiveness against severe disease and death
- Post-vaccination natural infection is rare but milder and has not been transmitted

Make an Informed Choice
Everyone has a choice to get vaccinated or not

- Use reliable sources for an informed decision
- HCWs are influential in patients’ decision making
- Communicate vaccine information to patients in an unbiased way (COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits for Healthcare Teams)

Additional Resources: AAFP | Countering Vaccine Hesitancy; AMA | Tips for speaking with colleagues about COVID-19 vaccination; de Beaumont Foundation | Language that Works; FactCheck.Org | COVID-19 Misconceptions

For the latest updates on COVID-19, visit:
www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals

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