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*)

**“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**

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

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