Will the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine cause a positive COVID-19 PCR test?

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can cause a positive COVID-19 antibody test which signifies previous infection, however it will not cause a positive COVID-19 PCR test unless there is the rare (11 patients out of 14,000 patients) where the vaccine was not completely effective in preventing a COVID-19 infection.

Is it possible for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to give you COVID-19?

This is not possible because the COVID-19 vaccine is a small portion of the COVID-19 RNA virus. Because it is not a complete virus it cannot cause a COVID-19 infection. The small portion of the RNA from the COVID-19 virus in the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine triggers an immune response in our body, and this reduces the risk of subsequent COVID-19 infection by 94%. This vaccine is a two dose vaccine that is given 28 days apart. The vaccine will start protecting against COVID-19 infection in as early as 14 days.

How long will the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine protect against infection?

This is not completely known as the vaccine has only been studied for four months. With the information that we do know the vaccine has been known to provide 94% protection against COVID-19 infection for 4 months and there is no evidence of the vaccine losing its effectiveness at this time.

Can receiving the Moderna vaccine (RNA vaccine) alter your DNA?

No RNA is not able to alter or modify a person’s genetic makeup (DNA).

How is the Moderna vaccine distributed?

We will be getting the distribution of the Moderna vaccine at San Carlos through the Indian Health Service (IHS). Preparations for distribution at the Clarence Wesley Health Center in Bylas, AZ.

When will vaccines become available to health care workers?

It is anticipated the first vaccine distribution for health care workers will occur on the week of January 4, 2021.

When will the COVID-19 vaccines be available to the general public?

The general population could start receiving COVID-19 vaccines by the second quarter of 2021.

What are the side effects of the Moderna vaccine?

Side effects in the phase 3 Moderna trial were local side effects of pain and swelling at the injection site as well as mild to moderate systemic side effects including body aches, low grade fever, and chills.

What happens if I received the first dose of the vaccine but not the second dose?

There is no clinical data to answer this question, however if you only receive 1 vaccine dose without the booster 28 days later you will only receive a fraction of the protection compared to the two dose strategy.

Can you give one dose of the Moderna vaccine and one dose of the Pfizer vaccine?

No! Each vaccine requires an initial vaccine followed by a subsequent booster vaccine. The vaccines are not identical and are not interchangeable.

Do I need to wear a mask after I received the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The CDC recommends that during the pandemic people wear a mask even after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Does immunity from getting COVID-19 last longer than the protection from the COVID-19 vaccine?

This is unknown. We do not know how long natural immunity from a COVID-19 infection will last and we do not know how long the vaccine immunity will last.