

Your Union urges you to get informed and

# Get Vaccinated!



As union members, we stand together not only for fair wages and benefits, but also to protect each other from workplace hazards. Ultimately, our goal is to have happy, healthy lives for ourselves and our families. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, that's been a struggle. We all want to reconnect with our loved ones, reopen businesses, and get back to work — safely. We finally have the opportunity to do that: by getting vaccinated.

## **The vaccine can save lives and help to end the pandemic, but only if we get vaccinated.**

It is only through high vaccine utilization that we will beat this virus now and in the future.

Otherwise, the coronavirus will continue to spread and we will continue to put our loved ones, co-workers, and jobs at risk.

## **What is in the vaccine?**

The coronavirus vaccine is an mRNA vaccine, the kind that

triggers your body's cells to make proteins that build immunity to the coronavirus. Most other types of vaccines use weakened components of the disease-causing pathogen itself to stimulate an immune response, but not this vaccine. In other words, *there is no coronavirus in this vaccine.*



## **How did the vaccine get approved so quickly? Is it safe?**

Normally, vaccine production starts after they are tested for safety and effectiveness. In this case, drug companies were encouraged to start production while the testing was still under way. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines underwent the usual rigorous testing, review and approval process to establish their safety and effectiveness. Also, Washington joined other Western states in doing an additional expert review of these clinical trials. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were then approved for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and now, more than 3 million Americans have been vaccinated.

## **What are the side effects?**

Side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but should go away in a few days. Common side effects include pain or swelling at the injection site, fever, chills, tiredness and headaches. Contact your doctor if the redness or tenderness where you get the shot increases after 24 hours, or if your side effects persist after a few days.

**If you have more questions about the vaccine,** visit the Washington State Department of Health website:

[www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine)

