FDA Approves Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
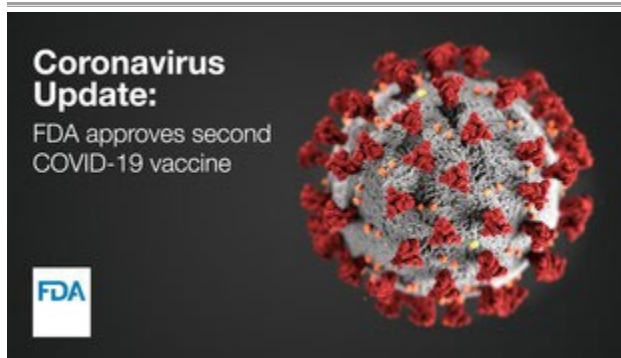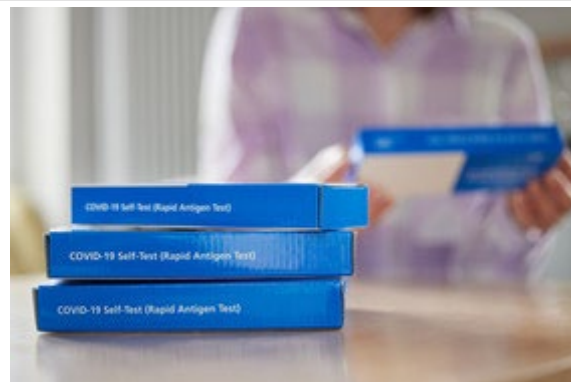
On January 31, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued approval of the Moderna vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals age 18 and older. The vaccine will be marketed as Spikevax and was previously available under emergency use authorization.

The Pfizer vaccine was previously approved by the FDA for individuals age 16 and older and is being marketed as Comirnaty for the same population. The vaccine remains emergency use authorized for children and youth ages 5-15.

What Do I Do If I Tested Positive on a COVID-19 Antigen Test?

Rapid COVID-19 antigen self-tests allow individuals to conveniently learn their COVID-19 status. These are different than home collection kits such as those available through the OC Health Care Agency in which specimens are collected at home, but then are sent to a laboratory for processing.

There is no requirement to report positive results from self-administered tests not performed under laboratory or healthcare professional oversight; however, anyone who tests positive is required to isolate according to the County Health Order and CDC guidelines.

Positive results for students and employees should be reported to their school and employer, respectively. For more information from the California Department of Public Health on reporting test results to state and local health jurisdictions, click here.

FDA Issues Alert on Unauthorized Rapid Tests

The FDA recently issued an alert warning people to stop using the Empowered Diagnostics CovClear COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test and ImmunoPass COVID-19 Neutralizing Antibody Rapid Test. These tests are not authorized by the FDA for distribution or use in the U.S. Learn more by clicking here.

Due to high demand for testing and opportunities for mis-advertising of testing products, Orange County residents and visitors are advised to beware of unauthorized COVID-19 tests, which may lead to higher risk of false results.

Authorized at-home test kits are available to order online through covidtests.gov and ochealthinfo.com/covidtest. You can also find onsite testing options through covid19.ca.gov/get-tested and covidclinic.org.

Get Vaccinated & Stay Up to Date!

Fully vaccinated means you received your primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. **Up to date** means you received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible. Learn more by clicking here.

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available throughout Orange County for children and adults ages 5 and over. For more information on where to go for a vaccine, click here.

Why You Should Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines slow the spread of COVID-19.

Getting vaccinated and boosted greatly reduces your risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, are effective against known variants, including Omicron.

All COVID-19 vaccines currently approved or authorized in the U.S. are proven to be safe.

FIND A VACCINE NEAR YOU: WWW.VACCINES.GOV

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