

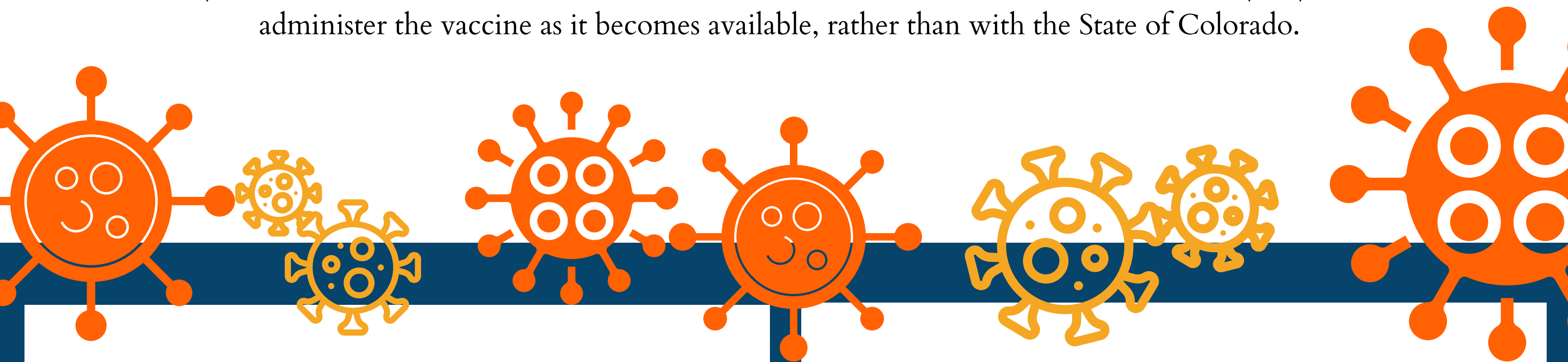


SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

COVID-19 VACCINE GUIDANCE

As we near the holiday season and witness a new year on the horizon, we are met with continued uncertainty about our future. We have been center stage to an unprecedented viral pandemic, one that has not been seen in over one hundred years. We have seen, and some have experienced, tragic illness and loss throughout our community. As the year draws to a close, two biotech companies have developed and launched a vaccine against the virus, bringing much needed hope.

Both Pfizer and Moderna have been granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). An EUA provided by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allows the use of a new medical product during the time of a public health emergency. Both vaccines developed by two separate biotech companies have proven to be highly efficacious (both over 90%). The Southern Ute Tribal Council has chosen to work with Indian Health Services (IHS) to secure and administer the vaccine as it becomes available, rather than with the State of Colorado.



Types of Vaccines

Vaccines comes in three forms

- **Live** - which is a weakened virus
- **Inactivated** - which is often a killed virus
- **Genetically Engineered Vaccine** - this type of vaccine uses genetically engineered RNA or DNA that has instructions for making copies of the viruses' surface proteins. These copies prompt an immune response to the virus.

The COVID-19 is a genetically engineered vaccine.

What is the COVID-19 Vaccine?

Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use bits of genetic code to cause an immune response and is called an mRNA vaccine. It does not alter human cells, but merely presents the body with instructions to build immunity to Covid. The mRNA codes for a protein that triggers an immune response to your body - it tricks your body into thinking it is being invaded by a foreign substance that may cause harm.



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Who will be vaccinated first?

Vaccine dissemination is divided into four phases.

- **Phase 1a** - only those that reside in long term care or assisted living facilities
- **Phase 1b** - police officers, congregate setting staff in jails and detention centers, teachers, other essential workers, and persons aged 75 years and older
- **Phase 1c** - persons aged 65-74 years, high risk persons aged 16-64, and essential workers
- **Phase 2** - elderly and those with chronic disease are considered to be high risk
- **Phase 3** - wider distribution to general public
- **Phase 4** - routine vaccination county wide.

Where are we now?

The Tribal Health Department (THD) has received Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Vaccination of all frontline healthcare workers has been completed. We are currently in Phase 1b, vaccinating essential workers and SUHC patients and tribal members aged 75 and older.



**Tawi Nuuchu
Na-gukwi-vani
COVID-19**

Together we will fight COVID-19

For tribal members who reside off-reservation or not within driving distance to SUHC:

If you are a healthcare worker or essential staff, you will be vaccinated soon. For everyone else, Elders will be given precedence followed by adults ages 16 and older. Please call your local health department or PCP and ask about their process. You must schedule your vaccination directly with your PCP. For tribal members residing in a long-term care facility or assisted living, if you or a loved one has not been vaccinated, please call the THD at 970.563.2400.