



Like many of you, we were encouraged to hear about the early results from the Pfizer/Biontech COVID-19 vaccine trial. In their first interim efficacy analysis, they determined that the vaccine was 90% effective in preventing COVID-19. While this news makes us all hopeful that we could soon vaccinate ourselves against this virus, we want to also stay grounded in the facts that we have today and manage your expectations.

To be extremely clear, there is no approved vaccine for COVID-19 that is currently available for distribution. We are waiting for additional results from this trial and also for a vaccine to receive Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA before there will be any concrete information about distribution and administration.

In our last email blast on this subject, we described the process that you should follow to designate your vaccine provider in the CDC Survey as part of Operation Warp Speed. We asked that you designate ALCO as your **“CURRENT PHARMACY PROVIDER.”** We also reminded you about the fluidity of the facts surrounding the vaccine.

Now, we are asking you to consider some additional moving parts, given yesterday’s news. The Pfizer vaccine was NOT developed using funds from Operation Warp Speed. This means that while Pfizer estimates that 50 million doses will be ready in 2020, they are under no obligation to keep all of these doses in the US for the initial rollout. OWS did purchase several hundred million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, but those doses may be delivered with the expected 1.3 billion doses estimated in 2021.

Further, the Pfizer vaccine must be administered in 2 doses, 21 days apart. So as you review the figures on how many doses will be distributed, we remind you that total number of people vaccinated will be half of that figure. Additionally, the Pfizer vaccine requires ultra cold storage (<90 degrees F) and the extensive use of dry ice and dry ice handling materials, which presents other logistical challenges.

We are committed to providing vaccines to our community as soon as they are available, and we are also studying the other vaccines that are in large-scale trials. We are hoping that there is more good news to follow about the other vaccine candidates, thus presenting us with multiple options as we head into next year.

We here at ALCO are staying close to all of the relevant COVID-19 vaccine news and promise to keep you all duly informed. Our website will maintain all of the newsletters we’re sharing with you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Denrich", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Denrich
Vice President & COO