1. **Is getting the vaccine safe?**
   The FDA has authorized three COVID-19 vaccines which have been shown to be safe and effective as determined by data from the manufacturers and findings from large clinical trials. These data demonstrate that the known and potential benefits of this vaccine outweigh the known and potential harms of becoming infected with COVID-19. CVS Health is only administering vaccines that have been authorized for use by the FDA and our COVID-19 vaccination services are being conducted in compliance with CDC guidance for safe delivery of vaccines.

2. **What kind of side effects should people expect from the vaccine?**
   According to the CDC, you may have some side effects following the COVID-19 vaccine, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. Common side effects include pain and swelling on the arm where you got the shot, headache, fever, chills, tiredness, and fatigue throughout the rest of your body.

3. **How is CVS Health prepared to deal with possible allergic reactions to the vaccine?**
   CVS Health immunizers are trained in the safe administration of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use by the FDA, including identifying and treating allergic reactions. The vaccination procedures include a patient screening checklist to assess the risk of reaction. All patients are monitored for 15 minutes after administration injection, or longer for people with a history of severe allergic reactions. Our immunizers are equipped with appropriate medications, such as epinephrine and antihistamines. Further information on COVID-19 Vaccines and allergic reactions can be found [here](#).

4. **Why is it important to get the second shot?**
   Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have two doses, with the second dose coming a few weeks after the first. Pfizer-BioNTech’s second dose comes three weeks after the first, and Moderna’s comes four weeks later. The second dose gives people a strong, long-lasting immunity. While these two vaccines include a second dose, the Janssen vaccine (Johnson & Johnson) requires one dose.

5. **What does the CDC recommend for people who have been fully vaccinated?**
   On March 8, 2021, the CDC issued its first set of recommendations on activities that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can safely resume. A link to these recommendations can be found here: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html)

6. **Will the vaccine need to be given annually?**
   Current science suggests that the COVID-19 vaccine will be like the flu vaccine, requiring annual dosing, but research will be required to fully answer this question.

7. **Most vaccines take years to develop. How are we able to speed up vaccine development for COVID-19?**
   Vaccine development is a lengthy, expensive process and can take up to 15 years. The fastest vaccine ever to be developed until now was for mumps – and that took nearly five years. Because of the cost and high failure rates, developers typically follow a linear sequence of steps, with multiple pauses for data analysis or manufacturing-process checks.
   However, with this pandemic, manufacturers have been able to speed up vaccine development. Here’s why:
   Head start: Data from SARS-CoV-1 and MERS CoV vaccine development saved time and the initial step of exploratory vaccine design was accelerated.
   Government involvement: The government invoked emergency authority to enable manufacturing to start alongside clinical trials. Manufacturing is usually scaled substantially after trials have concluded, but Operation Warp Speed has enabled manufacturers to build manufacturing alongside clinical trials.
   Pandemic recruitment: The higher rates of infection from this virus and more trial participants have enabled manufacturers to recruit participants and demonstrate efficacy more quickly.
   Cutting-edge approaches: New manufacturing technologies have helped accelerate vaccine production.

8. **Which vaccines have been approved for COVID-19?**
   The FDA has rigorous scientific and regulatory processes in place to facilitate development and ensure the safety, effectiveness, and quality of COVID-19 vaccines. The FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for COVID-19 vaccines manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen. An EUA gives the FDA authority to allow unapproved medical products to be used in emergencies when no approved alternatives are available. Other COVID-19 vaccines are in development and will be reviewed by the FDA under EUA. The current status of the vaccine EUAs can be found here.

9. **Where can I learn more so that I can make an educated decision about getting the vaccine?**
   Information for patients as well as Health Care Providers can be found by visiting the [CDC’s COVID-19 Vaccination Page](#).