

Go where the doctors go to get their information about COVID-19 and the vaccines that are coming

If you are a person who wants to be in-the-know... if you want to do your own research and make your own decisions, but you are questioning the credibility of the resources you are finding... go where the doctors go to get the details and inside stories.

Dr. Charles Pearce, employed with Madison Emergency Physicians also serves as Vice President of Medical Affairs at Upland Hills Health Hospital (UHH) in Dodgeville. Dr. Pearce is one of three physicians serving on the Incident Command Team at Upland Hills Health working to plan for and respond to the needs of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Pearce recommends learning more by tapping into the information available at these online resources.

Global: FAQs from the World Health Organization, [https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-vaccines](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines)

National: CDC overview: *"provides a great overview of considerations:"* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

CDC COVID vaccine Mythbuster page: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fvaccines%2Fabout-vaccines%2Fvaccine-myths.html

State: WI Department of Health Services information page: *"trusted and local:"* <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.htm>

Mayo Clinic Q&A: *"good questions with succinct answers:"* <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-answers-questions-about-covid-19-vaccine/>

Videos: Harvard school public health: *"very academic, but interesting:"* <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/experts-discuss-vaccine-hesitancy-and-covid-19/>

FDA w/various speakers: *"lengthy, but solid information:"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0K3RsI ZIP0&feature=youtu.be>

Podcasts: *"This one is great. Discussion w/ Dr. Offit, Infectious disease and virology expert and someone on the FDA committee for the COVID vaccine, quite compelling and my partner who referred this podcast to our group said that this was the podcast that convinced him to be vaccinated:"* <https://peterattiamd.com/pauloffit/>

Dr Offit, also provided a very recent Q&A that provides his very clear intent to get either Pfizer or Moderna vaccine when offered to him: <https://www.phillymag.com/healthcare-news/2020/12/15/covid-19-vaccine-questions-paul-offit/>

Patient info for the Pfizer vaccine: <https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/fact-sheet-for-recipient-and-caregivers.pdf>, we could consider sending this along now, but may be better if digested and then sent along as a 'What you need to know?' Also may depend on whether this is the vaccine that we get.

Dr. Rachel Hartline, Family Medicine physician at Upland Hills Health is one of three physicians serving on the Incident Command Team at Upland Hills Health working to plan for and respond to the needs of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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To learn more about how the COVID-19 vaccine was developed so quickly, read this article:

[How the world made so much progress on a Covid-19 vaccine so fast \(statnews.com\)](#)

Dr. Hartline summarizes the article here:

1. *“SARS-CoV2(COVID) looks and behaves a lot like SARS Cov1 (“SARS” from a few years ago) so folks were able to pick up from the work that was done trying to make a vaccine for SARS*
2. *The COVID genome was sequenced and available very early—posted online from Chinese researchers last winter*
3. *A vaccine was identified as a necessity early in the pandemic-- I remember the first anything I listened to about COVID was back in Jan or Feb, before it was at all clear that it was even going to be a pandemic and the researcher was talking about timeline to a vaccine, and how it may be shorter because of the work that was done in 1 and 2 above.*
4. *The government and drug companies have made it a priority, so barriers that would normally take a while to clear like showing efficacy in one phase before being ready to go with the next were not in the way. This is not to say that the drug companies were not required to progress through the normal phases of testing, but normally it would be phase 1 → if things look good, then get greenlighted, collect supplies and patients and funds for phase 2 → then phase 2 → if things look good, get greenlighted and collect supplies and patients and funds for phase 3. This time around the stuff for phase 2 was being lined up during phase 1 so that if/when it showed appropriate response they were ready to roll. For example, millions of doses of the Pfizer vaccine were all ready to ship prior to the emergency use authorization, which normally Pfizer wouldn't produce until after the authorization was granted since pre-producing the vaccine poses substantial financial risk to the company.*

Hope this helps! Can't wait to get my shot :D”

Science in general: *“Also more generally I really love the site fivethirtyeight.com's section on data-driven popular science news, especially about COVID.”*