



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

Radio Script: Reviewing the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines

Developed: June 2021 (updated August 2021)

Hello/Boozhoo! My name is _____.

Today, we will talk about the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.

Earlier this year, communities participated in Operation Remote Immunity. Many adults and Elders got vaccinated with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This vaccine is good for people 18 and up. It was offered because it was the best fit. It gives great protection against COVID-19. And it could be safely moved and stored.

The Pfizer vaccine was good for people 16 or older. But it needed to be kept at very cold temperatures. This made it tricky to safely get it to communities. But things changed. We learned that the Pfizer vaccine can be moved and stored at warmer temperatures for a short time. That meant that communities could access more vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine was also approved for people 12 and up. It was this decision that led youth and adults to choose the Pfizer vaccine during Operation Remote Immunity 2.0.

Anyone who is at least 12 years old or who is turning 12 before the end of the calendar year can get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Moderna vaccine is also available to anyone who is 18 or older. You can call your nursing station to learn more. Or if you are attending school, you can check to see if the school is hosting its own vaccine clinics.

It is true that two vaccines are being used. But the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have a lot in common.

They are both mRNA vaccines. This means that they work in the same way. The vaccines use mRNA to send a new recipe to your cells. Your cell uses the new recipe to make coronavirus spike proteins. Your cell shows these spikes on its outer layer. Your immune system reacts because the spikes do not belong. It makes antibodies to fight and destroy them. Your immune system learns to recognize the spike proteins on the COVID-19 virus. And it will attack the virus if you are infected.

Both vaccines are given in two doses. So, our cells get the recipe twice. This is to make sure our bodies are prepared and have the most protection.



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The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are approved by Health Canada. They are both very safe. No big safety issues have been reported for either. And they are both around 95% effective in preventing COVID-19.

People experience like side effects with these vaccines. The side effects for Pfizer and Moderna are mild. The ones that are most common are:

- Some pain or redness in the arm where the vaccine was given
- A slight fever and/or chills
- Headache or other muscle and body aches, and
- Feeling tired

Severe side effects are very rare for both. Neither of these vaccines have an increased risk of blood clots.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are made of similar things. They both contain the medical ingredient, salts, fats, and sugars.

As you can see, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are very alike. You can think of them like Pepsi and Coke. They are very similar products that are made by different companies.

Because they are quite alike, you may be wondering why Pfizer is the only one being offered to youth right now. This has to do with the research process. Pfizer finished its study with youth and has been reviewed by Health Canada. The study showed the vaccine to be safe and 100% effective. So, it has been approved for use. Moderna has finished its study. The data is under review. Once Health Canada finishes its review, they may approve it for use as well.

The outcome for these vaccines is the same. They both protect you from severe illness. They both help slow the spread. And they both help get us closer to the end of the pandemic.

COVID-19 still poses a risk to us. So, think about taking the first vaccine that is offered to you. This way, you and your community may get more protection sooner.

If you have more questions, you can send an email to acwinfo@slfnha.com. Or you can speak with a trusted health care worker.



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You can find more information on these vaccines at www.sfnha.com/covid/. You can also check out the SLFNHA or Anishinabe Youth Network Facebook pages.

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