## **DID YOU KNOW?**

COVID-19, was first detected in December 2019 in China, and by February 10th, 2020, had already claimed more lives, worldwide, (1,013) than the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak of 2002/2003. To date, COVID-19 has taken over 6 million lives worldwide, with over 1 million of those American lives.

With the FDA issuing Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of two vaccines in December of 2020, we began the journey towards removing stay-at-home orders and mask mandates.

# WHAT IF WE TOLD YOU WE HAVE AN UPDATE?



### **COVID-19 VACCINE & BOOSTER UPDATE**.

### VACCINES

In the US, there are four manufacturers of the COVID-19 Vaccines. Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's vaccines have each been granted full FDA approval for use. Whereas Johnson and Johnson's and Novavax's vaccines continue with Emergency Use Authorization only.

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna's vaccines are authorized and/or approved for individuals as young as 6 months of age, through adulthood. The primary vaccine series consists of two doses, given several weeks apart. Adverse effects for most patients are mild and may consist of tiredness, low fever, headache, and pain at the injection site. More serious effects should always be reported to your healthcare provider immediately.



#### BOOSTERS

As the COVID-19 virus ages, variants have developed. Over time it was noted that the initial COVID-19 vaccines were not able to combat newer variants, such as the potent Omicron variant. When case counts and hospitalizations began to again rise, due to new variants, the manufacturers went to work to formulate a bivalent booster.

Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna bivalent boosters were granted EUA in August 2022. These bivalent booster vaccines protects against both the initial COVID-19 strain of the virus and the Omicron variant . Currently these bivalent boosters have EUA for patients 6 months of age through adulthood. Patients will need to complete the primary COVID-19 Vaccine series, prior to receiving a bivalent booster dose. Side effects to watch for are similar to the initial vaccine series.

By scheduling vaccine and booster vaccine appointments for you and your family members, you can help guard against either contracting a COVID-19 infection, or you will be more likely to have a milder case of a COVID-19 infection.

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