

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: Sterling Insurance Group

FDA Issues EUA for the Widespread Use of Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine

On Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [issued](#) an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the widespread use of drugmaker Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine.

What Does This Mean?

An EUA would not be a full approval, and the FDA would continue to collect safety data before issuing a full approval. This endorsement is a critical milestone, as the next step would be for the FDA to approve the vaccine for EUA. As was seen with the approval of Pfizer Inc's COVID-19 vaccine, which received an EUA on Dec. 11, 2020, the FDA is expected to quickly issue an EUA for the Moderna vaccine.

Now that an EUA is issued for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the vaccine can begin to be distributed throughout the United States. In preparation for the approval, the U.S. government ordered 100 million doses of the Moderna vaccine, which will be delivered in batches throughout the rest of this year and the first quarter of 2021.

According to Moderna, 20 million doses are being prepared to be delivered by the end of December 2020. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said that 5.9 million doses of the Moderna vaccine would be shipped next week.

COVID-19 Vaccine Approval and Distribution

The endorsement for authorization comes from the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC), composed of independent doctors, scientists and experts. On Dec.

17, 2020, the panel voted 20-0 in favor of the recommendation, with one vote abstaining.

Earlier this week, FDA scientists found the Moderna vaccine to be "safe and efficacious." Specifically, the scientists found the vaccine to be 94% effective at preventing symptomatic illness and the spread of the coronavirus.

This endorsement follows a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, which would prioritize vaccine distribution for health care workers and long-term care residents before making the vaccine available to the general public.

What's Next

At minimum, an approved COVID-19 vaccine would likely still require months before distribution to the general public. Organizations should plan for the coronavirus pandemic to continue, and await more guidance for what a COVID-19 vaccine authorization will mean for workplaces.

