The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. On December 18, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Moderna vaccine. The emergency use authorization allows the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to be distributed in the U.S. for use in individuals 18 years of age and older.

**Moderna Vaccine and How it Works:**
- 94.1% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection in clinical trials. These trials also proved the vaccine is effective at preventing severe COVID-19, hospitalization, and death.
- Clinical trials showed no difference in efficacy based on race or ethnicity.
- Two shots are required, delivered 28 days apart.
- At this time, there is not enough data for scientists to determine if the Moderna vaccine can prevent the transmission of COVID-19 between people, only that it prevents people from getting sick.
- mRNA vaccines instead teach our cells how to make a spike protein that triggers an immune response inside our bodies, preventing infection.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain live virus and carry no risk of causing COVID-19 disease in the vaccinated person.
- mRNA vaccines do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.

**Moderna Vaccine Possible Side Effects:**
- Most common side effects include, injection site pain, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, and fever.
- In clinical trials, side effects were common within 7 days of getting vaccinated but most were mild and resolved within a few days.
- Side effects are a sign the immune system is kicking into gear. They do not signal the vaccine is unsafe.
- To date there are no serious or long-term side effects associated with receipt of the Moderna vaccine. VA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are closely monitoring side effects as more people use the Moderna vaccine.
- VA is taking precautions to ensure those with a history of a severe allergic reaction to the ingredients in the Moderna vaccine do not receive the vaccine. VA is also ensuring that VA clinicians are fully prepared to respond to a severe allergic reaction post vaccination.

**Keep Our Communities Safe:**
Continue to take action by practicing the 3 W's: Wear a mask, wash your hands, and watch your distance.