

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021

iNote Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Information

S.C DHEC is in phase 1A distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. More than 65 million doses have already been administered, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Energy critical positions are slated for phase 1C.

Some have expressed a reservation about the vaccine's safety. According to the DHEC website, "The FDA is committed to science and the critical evaluation of all new vaccines for their safety and efficacy in an unbiased way before their authorization for use. No vaccine will be released until it has undergone rigorous scientific and clinical testing that all vaccines in development are held to."

New strains of the virus are emerging. DHEC says early research indicates the available mRNA-based vaccines provide a level of protection from COVID-19 disease, but the full impact is still being evaluated. Click [here](#) to learn the latest about variants from CDC.

Side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines are typically minor, such as a sore arm or low-grade fever, and go away within a few days.

DHEC's website has more, [including videos with state epidemiologist Dr. Linda Bell](#).