Questions for Dr. Alessandro, Medical Director:

1. I've had COVID; why do need the vaccine?
   Anyone who has had COVID is still encouraged to get the vaccine. The vaccine has shown to provide better antibodies to fight against COVID than getting the virus itself.

2. Why don't we just let everyone get COVID and use herd immunity instead of vaccine?
   Two out of every 100 people die of COVID. The vaccine is our best approach to lowering the mortality rate and getting back to normalcy. Also we don't know all the lingering effects of the COVID virus. Many people who have recovered have long-term issues with their lungs, heart and brain.

3. If a person tests positive, how long do they need to wait or do they need to wait before receiving the vaccine?
   It is recommended to take the vaccine 10 days after testing positive.

4. We need to receive two doses of the vaccine. If you are unable to receive the second dose on the prescribed date (snowstorm, sickness, etc), how many days after that would you still be able to receive the second dose?
   There is no real timetable, try to get it as close as possible to the 21 days after initial dose.

5. Can the vaccine increase chance of contracting HIV?
   No it cannot.

6. Won't the vaccine weaken my immune system?
   No it is the opposite it stimulates the immune system.

7. Do we know the long term effects of the vaccine? What are some of the long term effects of COVID?
   There are no known long term effects from the vaccine in the last 9 months. There are worse long term effects from getting the virus.

Questions for Deb Morgan, DNS:

1. Will the vaccine give me COVID?
   No the vaccine does not have any live virus in it.

2. I've heard the vaccine can make me sick, is that true?
   You may get some mild symptoms that signifies your body is responding to the vaccine. A low grade fever, arm soreness and headache are common responses to the vaccine.

3. I'm worried about the vaccine and would prefer to "wait and see". What the danger in that?
   Vaccine administration is out of our hands. We were only given two dates to receive the vaccine. You may not have an opportunity later on to receive the vaccine.

4. I'm getting a lot of information from social media and my friends. Where else can I get information on the vaccine?
Don't confuse Google with a medical degree. We have been posting information from credible sources on our website under the infohub section. FairviewCT.org.

5. Will I need to pay for the vaccine?
You do not need to pay for the vaccine, however there is an administration fee to have the vaccine administered by our pharmacy partner. This is why we require your insurance information.

6. If I miss the 1st or 2nd dose where else can I go to get the vaccine?
There will be clinics in the community for the public, but may not be until spring or summer.

Questions for Emily Malone, Infection Control:

1. Wasn't the vaccine rushed? Doesn't that make it maybe not safe?
The vaccine went through the same safety protocols that all vaccines go through.

2. What preservatives are in the vaccine? Why does the vaccine have to be kept so cold?
There are no preservatives in the vaccine, the mRNA needs to be stored at low temperatures.

3. What sort of side effects should I expect?
Not side effects, but rather immune responses to the vaccine. A few that have been common are a low grade fever, redness at the injection site, arm soreness and headache. Nursing staff will be available to monitor if there are any severe reactions. We are prepared to counteract any reactions.

4. Is there a risk that the vaccine might cause infertility?
No there is not a risk it might cause infertility. There is no known evidence and there were women who got pregnant after participating in trials.

5. Will we still need to wear a mask after the vaccines have been received?
Yes we anticipate needing to wear masks for the better part of 2021.

6. Will we still need COVID testing after we receive the vaccine?
We need to continue to follow DPH and CDC guidelines and will test as long as we need to until it is safe to stop testing.