

## VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19

December 9, 2020 | 12:15-12:45pm Call Questions and Answers\*

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### **Vaccine Update**

*Bill Raszka, MD, UVMCH & LCOM:* As you know, the Pfizer vaccine has been tested on a lot of people around the world. More than 40,000 people were enrolled in trials and they didn't see any major signal of issues. The UK approved the Pfizer vaccine approximately 6 days ago and began immunizing yesterday. In addition, Canada approved the Pfizer vaccine just this morning. There were a lot of headlines about beginning immunization programs in the UK, which targeted a similar population to the population we're hoping to target (elderly people in long term care facilities).

Interestingly, within the first day of administration of the vaccine, two people had anaphylactoid reactions. This reaction is a little different from classical anaphylaxis because it's not necessarily Ig-mediated. Nonetheless, they required some care, but are recovering nicely. These reactions have surprised a lot of people just because that signal had not been seen in the trials to date. We don't know the ages of the people involved, but the UK did issue a warning indicating people with severe reactions previously or anaphylactoid reactions to previously administered vaccine should probably defer from this vaccine. I don't know if there's any update on the FDA in regard to this. It does not impact the Astra Zeneca being held here, because it utilizes significantly different methodology and technology. For those who don't read *The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)*, there's a very brief article in *USA Today* and I imagine this will circulate a bit more in the coming days. Here's the link to the *WSJ* article: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/people-with-severe-allergies-shouldnt-get-covid-19-vaccine-says-u-k-regulator-after-reactions-11607515727>.

### **Practice Issues – Becca Bell, MD, AAP-VT Chapter President**

*Becca Bell, MD, UVMCMC & AAP-VT:* I wanted to update the group on our AAP-VT Race and Health Equity Task Force. We had our first listening session with BIPOC patients and families last night. Stephen Graves, who worked for the UVM Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and now has a consulting firm, facilitated the session along with Charlotte Saffron from UVMCMC. We are going to host another listening session next week and I'll keep this group updated later this winter. For today, I wanted to update folks on the AAP-VT Green Mountain Pediatrician of the Year award. If you don't know this is an award we give out every year in recognition of dedication and contribution to child and adolescent health within the State of Vermont. This year, it was awarded to Drs. Breena Holmes and Wendy Davis. Every call they like to note a special recognition day. What they don't know is that from now on December 9<sup>th</sup> is Breena and Wendy Appreciation Day.

\*Note: This is a paraphrased synopsis of the call and is not a word-for-word transcription.

## Questions/Discussion

**C: Hi everyone, I can't stay today but wanted to log on to make sure everyone was aware that FDA posted a briefing document on the Pfizer vaccine. You can find it here:**

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144245/download>

**Q: Dr. Raszka, could you summarize what you said in one sentence in the chat?**

*A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: The UK began immunizing and within 24 hours two individuals developed anaphylactoid reactions requiring some care. The UK issued a warning that those who have had severe reactions to vaccines in the past should defer this vaccine.*

*A: Stephanie Winters, Vermont Medical Society: He also said that AstraZeneca vaccine was different on the anaphylactoid front because it uses different methodology!*

**Q: Will US/VT follow that recommendation?**

*A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: Two cases; no signal in the large trials. Will follow. We have yet to approve the Pfizer product.*

**Q: Do we know how many healthcare workers will be in phase 1a?**

*A: William Raszka, MD, UVMCH & Larner COM Dept. of Pediatrics: I do not know how many would be in 1a. It is a large number.*

*A: Stephanie Winters, Vermont Medical Society: 1a is 44000 health care workers and also within 1a is staff, residents and other support staff, so the total is 59,710.*

**Q: Do we think it's twice the 5800 we are getting? Trying to get an idea of how long it will take to get through everyone in phase 1a.**