

1. Are Pastors considered 1A since they are often called upon to minister to their sick parishioners or to conduct funerals?
Only clergy who are assigned to work in health care facilities would be considered as health care setting support staff for phase 1a. They would be in 1c as a group but many may meet other criteria for an earlier phase based on age or underlying health conditions.

2. If we've had both doses of the vaccine, we would not have to quarantine, correct (if they are in contact with someone who has COVID)?
There is nothing officially adopted from CDC yet. DHEC is currently recommending that individuals are protected 7 days after 2nd Pfizer dose and 14 days after 2nd Moderna dose and not need to quarantine. Close contacts of confirmed cases would need to quarantine for any times other than those mentioned above.

3. Does recent research suggest that natural immunity is approximately 8 months? How long does natural immunity last vs. the vaccine?
The duration of natural immunity has not been defined. Cases of reinfection have been reported but most if not have occurred more than 90 days after the initial infection. The duration of immunity from vaccine is also not defined yet. There is some data suggesting immunity can last for several months, possibly more. We need a longer track record with possible disease recurrence both after natural infection or, natural infection before there are definitive answers about duration of immunity.

4. Based on your answer regarding African American's hesitancy to take the COVID-19 vaccine, would you advise persons with heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, asthma and/or obesity to take the vaccine?
The vaccine is strongly recommended for individuals with the chronic medical conditions listed because the potential benefit of the vaccine outweighs the risk of serious complications from COVID-19 for individuals with those underlying conditions.

5. What infusion can be given to a patient to reduce the symptoms?
Treatment with convalescent plasma collected from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 and who may have protective antibodies in their plasma. Convalescent plasma may be different from each person it's collected from. Monoclonal antibodies treatment also provides protective antibodies, but they are produced in a factory. All the antibodies are the same so monoclonal antibodies offer a standard product.