Lincoln Trail District Health Department (LTDHD) could receive the Moderna vaccine as early as next week. LTDHD will utilize the Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) recommendations to guide all vaccine efforts. "There is a renewed sense of hope and energy among health department employees as we make plans to begin vaccination efforts. This virus has taken so much from us, and we feel like this is the path to getting back to normal. It is going to take a few months to accomplish the mission, so we ask for patience. This will truly be a collaborative effort between public health, hospitals, and other healthcare providers in our community to defeat COVID-19," said Sara Jo Best, Public Health Director.

Due to limited supplies, the prioritization of vaccine recipients is required. Initial doses will go to first responders because of their essential role in fighting COVID-19 and their increased risk of getting the virus. Subsequent doses will be provided in phases as per ACIP, and KDPH guidance, which targets additional workforce groups as more vaccine supplies become available. LTDHD will phase-in vaccination for the remainder of the population based on criteria that ensures fair, equitable, and orderly distribution. "The goal is to immunize all who would like the COVID-19 vaccine by the summer of 2021," stated Sara Jo Best.

Moderna must be given in two doses. The first dose allows the body to begin building an immune response to COVID-19. The second dose is provided 28 days later. It is needed in order to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer. You may have some side effects, which are an indication that your body is building a defense against the virus. The most common side effects are pain and swelling at the injection site. Fatigue, headache, and muscle aches can also occur but usually subside in a few days.

Moderna has been proven safe, and effective. Over 30,000 people of different ages, races, and various medical conditions, volunteered to receive the Moderna vaccine during clinical trials. The vaccine was proven 94% effective and tolerated well by participants.

For additional information, please visit the LTDHD website at www.ltdhd.org or the Kentucky COVID-19 website at kycovid19.ky.gov.