NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: Davevic Benefit Consultants, Inc.

Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine Fully Approved by FDA

On Monday, Aug. 23, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave full approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine.

It is the first full approval of any coronavirus vaccine in the United States. The other vaccines, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, are still available under emergency use authorization (EUA) granted by the FDA. The Moderna vaccine is currently under review for full approval, and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is expected to begin the process soon.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is fully approved for individuals aged 16 and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under the EUA for children ages 12 to 15 and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

....

"While millions of people have already safely received COVID-19 vaccines, we recognize that for some, the FDA approval of a vaccine may now instill additional confidence to get vaccinated."

- *Dr. Janet Woodcock, the acting FDA commissioner*

....

The approval comes as the coronavirus Delta variant continues to spread across the United States. Federal and state governments have been issuing renewed guidance as a way to rein in the infections, including implementing stringent mask-wearing requirements.

What's Next?

Authorizing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is expected to open the floodgates for employers considering their own vaccine requirements. Many colleges, hospitals, corporations and even the federal government have announced tentative plans to require proof of vaccination as a condition of employment. United Airlines, for example, recently announced they will require vaccine proof among their employees. Other businesses are using vaccine cards to verify whether patrons need to wear face masks.

It is unclear how many organizations will require vaccination among employees in the near future, but employers should continue to monitor the situation as it evolves. We will be sure to keep you up to date on any new developments.

DAVEVIC
Benefit Consultants, Inc.