

Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccinations

We strongly encourage you to talk to your doctor or PCP and get vaccinated as soon as possible. Below are several resources about the benefits of getting the vaccine and what we know so far.

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

COVID-19 Vaccines: Get the Facts

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-vaccine/art-20484859>

How do I know the vaccine is safe?

The FDA approved the vaccine because there were no serious adverse reactions to the vaccine during trials. Diverse groups of participants were included in the trials.

Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

Joint Statement on the Integrity of Vaccine Trials and the Inclusion of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)

<https://www.msm.edu/RSSFeedArticles/2020/September/joint-statement-on-integrity-of-vaccine-trials-and-inclusion-of-bipoc.php>

How do we know the vaccine is safe?

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions#how-do-we-know-if-the-vaccine-is-safe>

How do I know the vaccine is effective?

The FDA approved the vaccine because the trials showed that it was very effective in preventing people from getting sick from COVID-19.

Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccines Work

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html>

I've heard bad things [makes you sick, doesn't work, is a conspiracy] about the vaccine. Why should I believe you?

The vaccines are new, so there are lots of rumors floating around on social media. We urge you to consult your doctor or PCP to get the latest and best information. We will only give you

information that comes from known and trusted sources. We want you to have the facts you need to make decisions for yourself and your family. If we don't know, we'll tell you that.

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No, the vaccine cannot give you COVID-19. There is no live virus or complete virus proteins in the vaccine. It cannot cause COVID-19 infection. Read how the new vaccines work.

Facts About COVID-19 Vaccines

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html>

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Vaccines work by activating your immune systems to create defenses against the virus. When your immune system is active, it may produce fever or aches. This is a sign the vaccine is working. You may experience these after getting the vaccine.

What to Expect After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

How does the vaccine work?

The COVID-19 vaccine available now does not use any live virus. To learn more about how the vaccine works, follow the link below to the CDC website.

Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>

Will I still have to wear PPE and social distance after I get the vaccine?

Yes, for several reasons:

- If you were recently exposed to COVID-19 before getting the vaccine, it won't keep you from getting sick or spreading the virus.
- Immunity requires TWO shots and takes 28 days to develop. So you can get sick if exposed before 28 days.
- We don't know for sure whether the virus prevents asymptomatic infection or spread. It's effective at keeping you from becoming ill, but experts are not sure about whether you can still spread it after vaccination.

Once 60-85% of people in the country are vaccinated, infection rates are expected to fall to low levels. Then we may have "herd immunity." That could occur next summer if everyone gets the vaccine as soon as it's available. At that point, PPE and social distancing may be relaxed. We just don't know for sure at this point.

Why aren't children included in the vaccination plan now?

Testing of the vaccine on children under the age of 16 is not complete. These trials will not be complete until late summer or early fall at least.

