Deciding if you want to get a
COVID-19 VACCINE?

BENEFITS OF GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE

» All three authorized COVID-19 vaccines work well to keep people from getting very sick from COVID-19, needing to be hospitalized, or dying.

» Scientists think that COVID-19 vaccines may also help keep the virus from spreading. Like wearing masks and physically distancing, vaccines are another effective tool we can use to keep each other safe.

» The more of us who get vaccinated when it's our turn, the sooner life will get back to normal.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Which vaccines are available?

» Vaccines made by Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) have all been authorized by the FDA.

What are the differences between the vaccines?

» The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses. The Janssen vaccine requires only one dose.

» The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines, which means they use single-stranded mRNA to teach your body how to fight COVID-19. The Janssen vaccine is a viral vector vaccine that uses double-stranded DNA to teach your body how to fight COVID-19.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe? How do we know?

» The FDA requires a rigorous scientific process, including three phases of clinical trials, before they authorize any vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccines were held up to the same safety standards as other vaccines.

Do the vaccines work? How do we know?

» While testing the vaccines for safety, researchers also tested to see how well they worked. After monitoring people who volunteered for the clinical trials, they found that all three vaccines were very effective at preventing serious disease.

How were the vaccines developed so quickly?

» Researchers relied on years of previous knowledge about other viruses and vaccines.

» Researchers did not skip any steps. They were able to develop the vaccines on parallel tracks, meaning that they completed the necessary steps at the same time or with some overlap.

» Everyone involved dedicated all their resources and time to developing COVID-19 vaccines, including research institutions, government agencies, philanthropic organizations, and pharmaceutical companies.

» Many governments and private funders invested in the vaccine, which allowed pharmaceutical companies to focus on research right away.

What are the ingredients in the vaccines?

» The vaccines use only the ingredients they need to be as safe and effective as possible. At your vaccination appointment, you should receive a fact sheet that lists the ingredients of the vaccine you are being offered.

Can the vaccines give me COVID-19?

» A COVID-19 vaccine can't give you COVID-19. None of the vaccines contain the virus that causes COVID-19.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

» No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines can change your genes.

What are the side effects?

You may experience mild to moderate side effects after receiving the vaccine. Side effects typically go away on their own after a few days. The most commonly reported side effects are:

» Pain, swelling, and redness at the injection site.

» Pain, tenderness, and swelling of the lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection.

» Fever.

» Chills.

» Tiredness.

» Headache.

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

» Natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long in some people, and cases of reinfection have been reported. So even if you have had COVID-19 and recovered, you should consider getting a vaccine when it is your turn.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

» Currently, there is no scientific evidence to suggest COVID-19 vaccines have any effect on fertility. Clinicians and researchers will continue to closely watch for any issues. Please talk with your doctor about any concerns.

HOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

It's important to get your vaccine information from trusted sources. For more information, please visit the following websites:

» Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: covid19.colorado.gov/vaccine

» Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov

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