

Get the facts. Stay informed. Do your part!

COVID-19

Why Vaccines Matter

HERD IMMUNITY

Herd immunity occurs when a large portion of a community becomes immune to a disease.

This makes the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. When herd immunity is reached, the whole community is protected, not just those who are immune.

When a certain percentage of the population is susceptible to the disease, it allows the disease to spread. This percentage is called a threshold proportion. When the proportion of those immune to a disease is higher than the given threshold, then herd immunity has developed and the spread of disease declines.

The more contagious a disease is, the higher the proportion of the population that needs immunity to the disease in order to stop its spread.

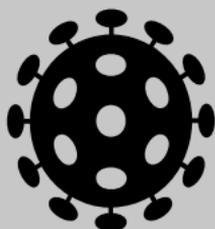
Herd immunity can be reached two ways:

Vaccines



Infection





ACHIEVING HERD IMMUNITY

Vaccines



Vaccines achieve immunity without causing illness or potential complications.

For those who are unable to be vaccinated, herd immunity is essential in protecting the population from disease.

Researchers are still studying whether infection with COVID-19 makes a person immune to future re-infection.

To achieve natural herd immunity, a large number of the population would have to be infected, which can quickly overwhelm the healthcare system.

Infection



The Bottom Line

Vaccination against COVID-19 is an important tool to help us get back to normal.

As vaccines become more widely available, doing your part by getting vaccinated will help efforts to reach herd immunity and provide protection for yourself and others.

To schedule a vaccine appointment, call 601.266.5390 or visit our patient portal.



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COVID-19 VACCINE Basics

**The COVID-19
Vaccine
Protects You
From Getting
COVID-19**

Vaccines currently available in the U.S. are shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19.

Similar to flu vaccines, experts believe the COVID-19 vaccine may lessen the chances of serious illness if you do get sick with COVID-19.

While natural immunity from having had COVID-19 is helpful, experts don't know how long it lasts, and the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 is still a concern.

**COVID-19
Vaccination
is a Safer
Way to Help
Build
Protection**

**COVID-19
Vaccine
Series**

The currently authorized vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the U.S. require 2 shots to get the most protection:



Pfizer-BioNTech doses should be given 3 weeks (21 days) apart



Moderna doses should be given 1 month (28 days) apart

Plan to get your 2nd shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 1-month interval as possible.

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COVID-19 VACCINE

What to Expect



Just like with other vaccines, you may experience some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection.

Side effects may affect people differently but should go away within a few days.

Common Side Effects

Arm of Injection Site:

- Pain
- Swelling

Rest of Your Body:

- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Body Aches



Helpful Tips

For pain or discomfort, talk with your provider about taking an over-the-counter medicine like ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

Reducing Discomfort from Fever:

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Dress lightly.

Reducing Pain and Discomfort at the Injection Site:

- Apply a clean, cold, wet washcloth over the area.
- Use or exercise the arm.

When to Call the Doctor

If you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction, seek immediate medical care by calling 911.

If the redness or tenderness where you got the shot increases after 24 hours.

If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.

COVID-19 VACCINE: Fact vs. Fiction

Fiction

Fact

A COVID-19 vaccine can make you sick with COVID-19.

The vaccine for COVID-19 cannot give you COVID-19. Vaccines currently available and those still in development do not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19.

Remember, it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build up its immunity (protection against the virus) after you receive the vaccine.

It is still possible for a person to be infected with the virus prior to or just after receiving the vaccination and as a result, get sick. If this occurs, it is because the vaccine has not had enough time to build immunity.

Development of the COVID-19 vaccine was rushed, therefore its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted.

The method used to create the current vaccines have been in development for years prior to the current pandemic. With the help of additional funding, this allowed for the companies to start the vaccine development process early.

Both vaccines currently available are found to be about 95% effective - with serious or life-threatening side effects rarely reported.

The COVID-19 vaccine was developed with or contains controversial substances.

These vaccines were not developed using fetal tissue and do not contain any type of materials, such as implants, microchips, or tracking devices. The COVID-19 vaccines use ingredients that are commonly used for other vaccines.

The COVID-19 vaccine enters your cells and changes your DNA.

The current COVID-19 vaccines use messenger RNA to help your body's immune system fight the virus. While the mRNA does enter cells, it does not enter the nucleus of the cells where your DNA is found. The mRNA causes the cell to make proteins to stimulate your immune system before quickly breaking down. It does not affect your DNA.



Get the facts. Stay informed. Do your part!

Fiction

Fact



The COVID-19 vaccine has dangerous side effects.



Similar to other vaccines like the one for flu, side effects are possible, but the majority are short-term and not serious. There may be pain at the injection site, body aches, and headaches, or fever that lasts for a day or two after getting the vaccine. These reactions are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate your immune system.

CDC has learned of some people who have experienced anaphylaxis after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have a history of severe allergies (those for which you carry an EpiPen,) discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with your doctor before starting the shot series. A doctor can best assess your risk and discuss the best options for safe vaccination.



If I've already had COVID-19, I don't need to get the vaccine.



Because re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, and there are serious health risks associated with the illness, even those who have already had COVID-19 can benefit from getting vaccinated.

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