How to Talk to Your Community About COVID-19 Vaccines

As a trusted member of your community, you can promote important and helpful information. With your support we'll be able to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- Facilitate open discussions with members of your community. If they have questions, offer clear and actionable recommendations. Your answers can provide them with the confidence they need to get a vaccine and continue to protect themselves.

- COVID-19 vaccines are now available at no cost for everyone ages 6 months and older, regardless of your immigration or health insurance status.

- The vaccines protect everyone, particularly essential workers and those at high risk for severe illness: older adults, pregnant and recently pregnant people, and people with certain medical conditions.

- All available COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19.

- To get the most protection from the vaccines, you need all the recommended doses.

- If you meet the criteria for having a compromised immune system, check the guidance.

- All vaccinated people age 5 and older should get a booster shot as soon as you're eligible to keep up your protection against COVID-19. See the latest guidance on boosters.

- The COVID-19 vaccines meet the FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Tens of millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and all COVID vaccines will continue to be monitored for safety.

Content last reviewed: August 17, 2022

For more information, visit **cdc.gov/coronavirus**

WE
CAN
DO
THIS

Replace box with
your organization's
logo

How to Talk to Your Community About COVID-19 Vaccines

- Even if you've already recovered from COVID-19, it's possible that you could be infected again. That's why it's important to get a vaccine.

- None of the available vaccines will make you sick with COVID-19. However, it's possible to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 while your body builds immunity after receiving the vaccine. So until you're up to date with your COVID vaccines, wear a well-fitting mask inside public places (even vaccinated people in areas of substantial or high spread of COVID should wear a mask inside public places to maximize protection from highly contagious variants and prevent possibly spreading COVID to others), stay at least 6 feet away from people who don't live with you, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and wash your hands often.

Get vaccinated. You have the power to keep your family safe.

SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY

The FDA and CDC have the highest standards when it comes to ensuring the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. Their process includes the following procedures:

- Scientists must first test vaccines extensively in medical studies to ensure they are safe and effective.

- Before the FDA authorizes a vaccine for use among the public, it ensures its safety by independently:

  - Reviewing the data from the medical studies, and
  - Inspecting the manufacturing facilities.

- Even after a vaccine has been authorized, the FDA and CDC closely monitor vaccine administration to identify even rare side effects or reactions.

- The FDA and CDC closely review any reports of side effects or reactions and share these facts with the public.

The extremely rare cases of blood clotting and Guillain-Barré Syndrome following Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine and heart inflammation following Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's vaccines—a very small number of cases out of millions of vaccinations—show that the FDA and CDC's vaccine safety monitoring systems work and catch even the rarest reactions.

Thorough investigations have confirmed that all currently available COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. However, CDC recommends most people get the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax vaccine.

The monitoring systems ensure that doctors are notified to watch for signs of serious reactions, no matter how rare, and are aware of proper courses of treatment.