

‘All in’ Against COVID-19

FAQ and Guide to Supporting Vaccine Confidence for Faith and Community Leaders

The following recommended preventative practices and answers to frequently asked questions are based on what is currently known about the COVID-19 vaccines.

- For regular updates, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) dedicated [COVID-19 Vaccine website](#)ⁱ. Information is also available in [Spanish](#)ⁱⁱ and other languages.
- For local information, check with your [state and local public health authorities](#).ⁱⁱⁱ
- For guidance and instruction on specific COVID-19 prevention activities related to your community’s tradition and practices, refer to your national and regional denominations.

About COVID-19 Vaccines

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized the **first two COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use**. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-2>

Current vaccines require two doses:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-3>
- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-4>

NOTE: Additional vaccines may be available soon.

- Bookmark the “**CDC’s Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines**” for updates. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-1>

Step One: Get and Share the Facts

COVID-19 and Risk Factors

- COVID-19 most commonly spreads between people who are in close contact with one another (within about six feet or two arm lengths).
- People with an “asymptomatic infection” (not feeling sick or showing symptoms) can spread the virus to others.
- COVID-19 vaccines may keep you from getting seriously ill, or dying, should you become infected with the virus.
- Older adults are at a greater risk of hospitalization or death if diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Long-standing, systemic health and social inequities have put many people from disproportionately affected racial and ethnic groups at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Vaccines

- [How do COVID-19 vaccines work?](#)^{iv}
Vaccines train our immune system to recognize the virus that causes COVID-19 and make cells to fight it. With vaccines, we can build immunity to a disease without getting the disease.
- [What is “Herd” or Community Immunity?](#)^v Herd immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they’ve already had the disease or because they’ve been vaccinated. Herd immunity makes it hard for the disease to spread from person to person, and it even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, like newborns or people who are allergic to the vaccine.
- [What are the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines?](#)^{vi}
Some people get temporary side effects like fever, headache, or a sore arm after they take the COVID-19 vaccine. Side effects are usually mild and last only a few days. Side effects occur when the body is building protection against the virus.
- [How do I know the vaccine won’t give me COVID-19?](#)^{vii}
You cannot get COVID-19 from any of the COVID vaccines now in use nor from those being tested in the United States as none of them contain the live virus that causes the disease.
- [What does it mean that a vaccine has a 95-percent efficacy](#)^{viii} [rate?](#)
Clinical trials showed that the vaccines are 94-95 percent effective, meaning they prevent 94-95 of every 100 vaccinated individuals from getting COVID-19.
- [Will I still be able to transmit the virus if I get a COVID-19 vaccine?](#)^{ix}
A vaccine reduces the likelihood that you will get infected, so you’ll be less likely to infect others.
- [Why are people having allergic reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)^x
A small number of people have had allergic reactions, called anaphylaxis, after getting a COVID-19 vaccine; but they were treated and have fully recovered. The CDC [provides recommendations](#)^{xi} on what to do if you experience an allergic reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccination or any other vaccine.
- [Do the vaccines work on the new COVID variants?](#)^{xii}
Scientists are studying variants of the virus that cause COVID-19 to see whether existing vaccines will protect people against them. You can [track US COVID-19 cases caused by variants](#).^{xiii}
- [Why is there a heavy focus on vaccinating people of color?](#)^{xiv}
People of color who get COVID-19 are at much higher risk for severe cases of and even death from the disease. It’s important that they are [vaccinated as soon as possible](#),^{xv} especially seniors of color.
- [When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?](#)^{xvi}
As larger supplies become available, more people will be able to receive the vaccines. Most adults should be able to get the vaccine later in 2021. Stay tuned to the vaccine program in your state/county by using the [locator](#)^{xvii} or through your [state or local health department](#)^{xviii} to find out when, where, and how vaccines will be available in your community.
- [Do I need to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I’ve already had COVID-19?](#)^{xix}
Scientists are still reviewing this question. We don’t yet know how long natural antibodies in people who have had COVID-19, or antibodies created as a result of vaccines, will be effective.

- **How long does the COVID-19 vaccine last?**^{xx}

We don't know how long the vaccine protects people, but clinical trials are actively investigating this. What we do know is that among people who were vaccinated in clinical trials of the vaccines now available, 94 to 95 people out of 100 did not get the disease.

- **Who is paying for the vaccine? Is it free to the public?**^{xxi}

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars and are being given to the American people at no cost. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee.

- **Do I still need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received two doses of the vaccine?**^{xxii}

Yes! Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions before they recommend that we stop wearing masks or avoiding close contact with others. In the meantime, it will be important for everyone to continue **using all the tools** available to help stop this pandemic.

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least six (6) feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

Step Two: Get Vaccinated

There is a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines currently available; however, the supply will continue to increase in the weeks and months ahead. It is expected that most of the American population will have access to the vaccine by fall 2021.

When can I get a vaccine?

CDC makes recommendations for who should get the vaccine first, then each state makes its own plan of distribution. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-5>

How much do I have to pay?

Vaccines are **free** to the public.
<http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-6>

Where can I get a vaccine?

Use the **CDC's vaccine locator** or contact your state or local health department to find out when, where, and how vaccines will be available in your community. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-7>

How Do I Get a Vaccine?

CDC makes recommendations for who should get the vaccine first, then each state makes its own plan.
Choose your state or territory below to find your health department:

Select State / Territory ▾

Step Three: Get Involved

Across the country, there are growing numbers of faith and community organizations championing — and even hosting — vaccine programs. There are many opportunities to inform your community, encourage your members to get vaccinated, and to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Here are a few ways to get started:

- **IDENTIFY AND CONNECT:**

Testing and vaccine programs are managed locally. If your community doesn't have a public health partner, now's the time!

- Use the CDC's [locator](#)^{xxiii} to determine local vaccine efforts in your state/territory, contact your [state or local health department](#)^{xxiv} or from the list of [Association of Immunization Managers \(AIM\)](#)^{xxv} to find out when, where, and how vaccines are being made available in your community.
- Identify your local [Community Health Center](#).^{xxvi} CHCs may serve as trusted, long-term partners in addressing the health needs of your community, including COVID-19.
- Reach out to your local health care provider or local public health authority to determine how your community can support vaccine efforts.

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION | A **synagogue in North Carolina** proactively reached out to their local provider and county health authorities to explore the possibility of using their building and congregational resources to operate a neighborhood-based vaccination site. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-8>

- **GUIDE AND EDUCATE:**

Support local outreach and educational efforts encouraging prevention practices and getting the vaccine.

- Share information about how to get vaccinated in your local community through your newsletters, popular apps (e.g., Nextdoor®, Facebook®, etc.), and community announcements.
- Invite local health professionals or those affiliated with your community or tradition to talk about the COVID-19 pandemic and address common fears, myths, and misconceptions about the virus and vaccines.

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION | Get motivated by these examples from across diverse traditions and communities:

- **BAPS Charities** recorded “North America — COVID-19 Vaccine Myths, Facts, FAQs,” a webinar, subtitled in Gujarati, featuring three infectious disease and vaccine experts from their faith community. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-9>
- **American Muslim Health Professionals** hosted a “Conversation on COVID-19 with Dr. Anthony Fauci and Experts from the Muslim Community.” <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-15>

- **ACCESS = EQUITY:**

Support access to vaccines and health care. Team up with a clinical partner to host a vaccine event:

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION | Hosted in a **Chicago mosque, the Compassion Care Network (CCN)** vaccinated over 200 people in four hours, drawing from interfaith and various underserved communities throughout Chicago. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-11>

Work with public health and vaccine providers to assist those eligible to secure appointments, make follow up calls, and offer transportation.

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION | The town of Greenburgh, NY is seeking **COVID volunteer “angels”** who will be trained to reach out to seniors, offer to help them navigate the vaccine process, and answer questions. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-12>

- **VACCINATE AND VALIDATE:**

It’s important that trusted leaders of communities get vaccinated and then share it publicly to help encourage others in their community to get their vaccines, too!

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION |

- On Martin Luther King Day, Cleveland’s MetroHealth System released a video, featuring some of Northeast Ohio’s faith leaders urging people to get vaccinated. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-13>
- Pastors were publicly vaccinated in Boston to encourage their vaccine reluctant members. <http://bit.ly/VaccFacts-14>

Step Four: Getting Resources

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- CDC’s Considerations for Communities of Faith: <https://go.usa.gov/xsZjD>
- Community-Based Organizations COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit: <https://go.usa.gov/xskgx>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations <https://go.usa.gov/xsZjy>

FAQ WEBSITE SOURCES:

- How COVID-19 Spreads <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>
- Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html>

- Health Equity Considerations and Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html#fn22>
- Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>
- Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits/facts.html>
- About Older Adults at Risk
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html>

ENDNOTES:

- i <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- ii <https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- iii <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/index.html>
- iv <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html>
- v <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html>
- vi <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/side-effects.html>
- vii <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>
- viii <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html>
- ix <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>
- x <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html>
- xi <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html>
- xii <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>
- xiii <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>
- xiv <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/infographic-cases-hospitalization-death.html>
- xv <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html>
- xvi <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- xvii <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- xviii <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/index.html>
- xix <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>
- xx <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- xxi <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- xxii <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- xxiii <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- xxiv <https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/index.html>
- xxv <https://www.immunizationmanagers.org>
- xxvi <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>