COVID-19 Vaccine

How do vaccines work?
Vaccines help your body recognize and fight bacteria or viruses so you don’t get as sick. COVID-19 vaccines use either messenger RNA (mRNA) or a safe version of a different virus (a vector) to deliver important instructions on how to fight the virus. Our cells use these instructions to create a specific protein that is used to build immunity.

Why should I get the vaccine?
✓ You can get back to doing the things you love more safely.
✓ Getting vaccinated protects you and the people around you from getting sick.
✓ Vaccines help stop the spread of the virus and its variants.

COVID-19 vaccines are
Safe
• All the COVID-19 vaccines have gone through the same safety tests and continue to be watched closely for safety, like all other vaccines.
• Millions of people have already gotten the COVID-19 vaccine safely.
• Very few (less than 0.005%) vaccinated people have severe side effects. You are more likely to have serious long-term effects if you get COVID-19 and are not vaccinated.

and
Effective
• COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.
• Medical experts authorized the vaccines because they give us the protection against COVID-19 we need.

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available.
• Wearing masks and physical distancing reduce your risk of being exposed to the virus and spreading it to others. Vaccines reduce your risk of getting sick if you are exposed.
• Fully vaccinated people should still wear masks in certain settings. Everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission should wear a mask in public indoor settings. Learn more: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-after.htm.
• The combination of COVID-19 vaccination and following good public health behaviors will offer the best protection for all from COVID-19.

Wear your mask  Get tested if you have symptoms  Stay 6 feet apart
How were such effective vaccines developed so quickly?

- Earlier research on coronavirus cousins like SARS and MERS, and past epidemics gave the COVID-19 vaccine development process a strong head start.
- The investment in research and the cooperation among medical professionals from around the world was unprecedented.
- The clinical trial process was streamlined by including many more research participants and medical experts than required, so medical experts could tell if the vaccine is safe and effective as quickly as possible.

Facts About COVID-19 Vaccines

Currently, there are two types of COVID-19 vaccines authorized: mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) and a viral vector vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

Neither type of vaccine can cause COVID-19.

- They do not have the live virus that causes COVID-19 so they cannot give you COVID-19.
- Some people have side effects (like a sore arm or tiredness) a few days after vaccination, but COVID-19 vaccines cannot cause respiratory symptoms like a sore throat or cough.

They do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

- mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where DNA is kept. The cell gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using its instructions.
- The genetic material delivered by the viral vector does not integrate into a person’s DNA.
- COVID-19 vaccines do not cause infertility or problems trying to get pregnant.

Where can I get vaccinated?

Visit Vaccines.gov or call 1-844-684-1064 to learn where you or your teen can get your COVID-19 vaccine.

Remember:

- The vaccine is free! You don't need insurance or an ID!
- After vaccination, some people have side effects like a sore arm or feeling tired. These are normal and can be a sign the vaccine is building up your immune system. The vaccine still works if you do not have any side effects.
- If you are getting a two-dose vaccine, like Pfizer or Moderna, mark your calendar right away so you know when to go back to get your second dose.