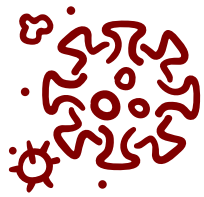


COVID-19 Vaccine



Vaccines are now available to stop coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The vaccine prevents most people (roughly 95%) from getting sick with COVID-19. **The vaccine is free and requires two shots from the same manufacturer spaced 3-4 weeks apart.** Getting the vaccine can keep you healthy and stop the pandemic. Here are some important things to know about the vaccine.

It is not available to everyone yet.

It takes time to vaccinate everyone so the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the State of Michigan created phases or prioritizations. People with high risk or who perform critical jobs will be the first people vaccinated.

- **First (Phase 1A)**- Healthcare workers and people in nursing homes.
- **Second (Phase 1B)**- People over age 65 years and frontline essential workers in critical infrastructure (Not all groups are eligible at once.)
- **Third (Phase 1C)**- People age 16-64 with a health condition that puts them at high risk for serious COVID-19 sickness
- **Fourth (Phase 2)**- All people age 16 and older



At this time, the vaccine is not available to people under 16 years old.

It was developed quickly and safely.

Scientists have been working with other coronaviruses for many years and used that work as a starting point. No steps were skipped, but the timeline was shortened. Like other vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine went through three clinical trials. Vaccine manufacturers began making the vaccine prior to authorization so it would be ready to ship as soon as it received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Manufacturers will work to complete typical licensure.



There could be minor side effects for a day or so.

Vaccines cause your immune system to respond. This can cause some flu-like symptoms. This includes a low-grade fever, headache or just feeling a bit tired. Your arm may also be sore from the shot.



The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19 and it does not touch your DNA.

The vaccine teaches your body to recognize the virus that causes COVID-19 by getting it to make then destroy the proteins that are on the outside of the virus. The whole virus is not in the shot. It never enters your cells' nuclei (where your DNA is).

You still need to wear a mask, practice social distancing and wash your hands.

The vaccine is a powerful prevention tool, but until the pandemic is under control, we must continue to take all prevention measures.

