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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.

1. COVID-19 vaccines are here now and everyone age 12 and older can get them at no cost, regardless of your immigration or health insurance status.
2. 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 against severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19, including from the Delta variant.

Remember, to get the most protection from the vaccines, you need all the recommended doses:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require two initial doses.
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine requires one initial dose.

If you meet the criteria for having a [compromised immune system](#), you should get a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 4 weeks after your second dose. An FDA and CDC review of data for Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine will determine whether a second dose is appropriate for people with compromised immune systems.

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3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 fully vaccinated (2 weeks after your final dose), wear a mask inside public places (even vaccinated people in [areas of substantial or high spread of COVID-19](#) should wear a mask inside public places to maximize protection from the highly contagious Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others), stay at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated, avoid crowds, and wash your hands frequently.

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 three FDA-authorized vaccines are safe and effective. Medical experts stress that the benefits of receiving any of the COVID-19 vaccines in use in the United States far outweigh any potential risks.

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.

