YOU can make a difference!

What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccines

Compiled and shared by the Middlesex County COVID-19 People of Color Health Initiative

Together, we can defeat COVID-19. Vaccination against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is an important tool to stop the spread of this disease. There are understandable reasons that you may have questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine. It is important that you have accurate information about the vaccine to decide if it is right for you.

What are the benefits of vaccination?

- It can help prevent you from getting COVID-19. If you do get COVID-19, it can help prevent severe symptoms and death
- Getting a high percentage of people vaccinated is the only way to stop the spread of COVID-19 enough to return to normal life

Who should get vaccinated?

- Most adults, including those with most allergies, are recommended to get vaccinated. If you are pregnant or immunocompromised, discuss vaccination with your healthcare provider
- The vaccine is not yet available for children
- If you already had COVID-19 and recovered, you should still receive the COVID-19 vaccine
- Discuss specific concerns with your provider

What should I expect when I'm vaccinated?

- After vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. For vaccines with two doses, side effects are more common after the second shot
- Common side effects are pain or swelling on the arm where you got the shot, fever, chills, tiredness, and headache. Most are mild to moderate and do not last a long time. Some people do not have any side effects
- The vaccine **cannot** make you sick with COVID-19. None of the approved COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19

Can I stop wearing a mask once I'm vaccinated?

- Fully vaccinated individuals may gather with other vaccinated individuals without wearing masks, but should continue to mask up in public and when gathering with unvaccinated individuals
- For up-to-date mask guidelines for vaccinated individuals, visit bit.ly/VaccineMaskCDC
- By vaccinating enough people, soon we will all be able to return to some normal activities

How much does vaccination cost?

- Receiving the vaccine is **FREE** to you
- Avoid scams: **NEVER** provide your Social Security number, bank information, or credit card. **NEVER** pay to be put on a list to receive the vaccine

When I am eligible to get vaccinated?

- The COVID-19 vaccine will be made available in phases. For up-to-date information about who is eligible to get vaccinated in Connecticut, visit https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations

Sign me up! How do I get vaccinated?

- You must make an appointment
- Complete this form: https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine then you will be notified by email to schedule an appointment online through VAMS
- You can call 877-918-2224
- Please do **NOT** contact your healthcare provider to make an appointment

You can protect yourself and your family by getting vaccinated, continuing other efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, and sharing what you know. We are all in this together!

For more information visit cdc.gov/coronavirus and blackdoctor.org

Unit 2018-B

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

Let's set the record straight!

Compiled and shared by the Middlesex County COVID-19 People of Color Health Initiative

Is the vaccine safe?

- **Yes,** safety is a top priority. The vaccines in use were tested on tens of thousands of people and have been administered to millions around the world. All data from every study were carefully reviewed by independent medical experts
- Safety monitoring continues - study participants will be followed for up to two years
- All ingredients of the vaccine are known and have been published

Is there a microchip in the vaccine?

- There is **NO** microchip in the vaccine, and the vaccine cannot track people or gather personal information

Will the vaccine change my DNA?

- COVID-19 vaccination **CANNOT and WILL NOT** change or interact with your DNA in any way

Will the vaccine affect my fertility?

- COVID-19 vaccination has **NOT** been linked to infertility or miscarriage

Is the vaccine effective?

- **Yes,** all COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the U.S. have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19 and preventing serious illness in those who do get infected
- Getting vaccinated may help protect people around you by limiting the spread of COVID-19
- Studies are ongoing to determine how long the vaccine will protect you from COVID-19
- Studies suggest that the vaccine is effective against new strains of the COVID-19 virus, though it may provide slightly less protection from some strains. The best way to prevent more dangerous strains from spreading is by vaccinating as many people as possible

Which COVID-19 vaccine should I get?

- All COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the U.S. are safe and highly effective. Experts agree that you should receive whatever vaccine is available to you first. The benefit of being vaccinated is greater than the risk of getting COVID-19 while waiting for a different vaccine to be available

How were Black, Indigenous, and People of Color involved in vaccine development, approval, and use?

- Medical experts of many races and ethnicities were involved in vaccine development and approval
- Experts made sure that people of color were included to be sure the vaccine is safe and effective in all populations. 10% of participants in studies for the vaccines used in the U.S. are Black/African American and 13-20% are Latinx
- **YOU** can be involved by getting vaccinated and sharing what you know with others

How was the vaccine developed so quickly?

- While COVID-19 is new, researchers have studied similar viruses for over 50 years
- The need for a vaccine was recognized early in the pandemic. Researchers around the world shared data to move quickly
- In the U.S., the Federal government and private companies worked together to dedicate lots of resources such as money and supplies. This allowed experts to work on multiple steps of vaccine development and testing at one time - without skipping or rushing any steps

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