



## The COVID-19 Vaccine

### \* Know the Facts, Make Your Choice

There have been many questions about the safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine. You deserve the facts, the evidence, and the tools to help you stay safe so you can draw your own conclusions. If you have a question that was not answered below, email us at [pio@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:pio@waukeshacounty.gov).

**COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.** Millions of Americans have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history. A safety board approved every study, and the FDA carefully reviewed the data from every phase of every vaccine trial. Although local and systemic side effects have been reported, as is the case for many other medical interventions, the risk of lacking protection against COVID-19 and developing severe disease far exceeds those posed by the vaccine itself.

- \* The vaccines are up to 95% effective, more than the annual flu shot, which is 40% to 60% effective.
- \* If enough people are vaccinated, we can prevent many deaths in our community.
- \* Most doctors have chosen to be vaccinated and recommend that their patients are, too.
- \* Developers cut red tape, not safety measures. The speed of the vaccines' development was due to years of advance work and the reduction of administrative bureaucracy. They followed rigorous safety precautions.

**Vaccines are safe and effective because American medical experts cut bureaucratic red tape, not corners.** The speed of development was due to the sharing of research on a scale never attempted before. American medical experts worked with pharmaceutical companies and others around the world to deliver groundbreaking technology

- \* Every study, and every phase of every trial, was carefully reviewed and approved by a safety board at the FDA. The process was transparent and rigorous throughout, with continual oversight and expert approval.
- \* Medical experts had a head start at developing vaccines because they were able to use over 20 years of data from previous coronavirus research, such as SARS in 2002 and MERS in 2012.
- \* The development and implementation planning phases were run side-by-side, instead of one after the other, to allow the process to happen faster without compromising safety. This was possible because of unprecedented funding.
- \* Hundreds of millions of people in the United States have now received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in American history
- \* Given the sheer number of vaccines administered to date, common, uncommon and rare side-effects would have been detected by now.
- \* These vaccines have been tested in clinical trials since mid-2020, and all vaccines in the United States have shown excellent safety results. This gives us confidence the vaccines are safe.

**Getting vaccinated gives everyone more freedom. Even for healthy people.** The more people are vaccinated, the fewer restrictions for everyone, and the sooner life will return to normal.



## The COVID-19 Vaccine

**You cannot get COVID-19 from any of the COVID-19 vaccines.** None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines in America contain a live virus. This means the vaccine cannot give you the virus. Some people experience mild side effects after they get vaccinated. This does not mean you are sick with COVID-19; it is a normal sign your body is building protection. Most side effects go away in a few days.

**Getting vaccinated is safer than getting COVID-19.** American medical experts overwhelmingly agree that the long-term effects of being infected with COVID-19 virus are likely to be worse than getting vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is a safer way to build immunity than being infected with the virus.

Many people who've had COVID-19 report long-term side effects that impact their daily life, including permanent lung damage and loss of taste. This includes young, healthy people with mild cases.

**Getting vaccinated is important to bringing the COVID-19 pandemic to an end.** Your choice to be vaccinated will help the economy recover, prevent illnesses and deaths in America, and stop the virus.

**The COVID-19 vaccine is free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.**

### COVID-19 vaccination providers cannot:

- \* Charge you for the vaccine
- \* Charge you any administration fees, copays, or coinsurance
- \* Deny vaccination to anyone who does not have health insurance coverage, is underinsured, or is out of network
- \* Charge an office visit or other fee to the recipient if the only service provided is a COVID-19 vaccination
- \* Require additional services in order for a person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine; however, additional healthcare services can be provided at the same time and billed as appropriate advance work and the reduction of administrative bureaucracy. They followed rigorous safety precautions.

### COVID-19 vaccination providers can:

- \* Seek appropriate reimbursement from the recipient's plan or program (e.g., private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid) for a vaccine administration fee
- \* However, providers cannot charge the vaccine recipient the balance of the bill
- \* Providers may also seek reimbursement for uninsured vaccine recipients from the Health Resources and Services Administration's COVID-19 Uninsured Program.

**If you have questions about vaccination, please contact Waukesha County Public Health at:**

Phone: (262) 896-8430

Fax: (262) 970-6670

Toll-Free: 1-800-540-3620

Email: [hhs@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:hhs@waukeshacounty.gov)