

Straight talk about the **COVID-19 Vaccine**

WHAT WE KNOW

COVID-19 VACCINES ARE SAFE.

Vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of clinical trial participants. Over 350 million doses have been given in the U.S. These vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

[Learn more about vaccine safety from the CDC.](#)

VACCINES WORK.

Those not vaccinated make up 99% of all COVID-19 related deaths. [Data shows](#) that the COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of hospitalization and death by over 95%. Vaccination also substantially reduces the risk of long-haul symptoms (which is a risk for those with even mild or asymptomatic COVID-19).

[Learn more about vaccine effectiveness from the CDC.](#)

VACCINE WILL NOT GIVE YOU COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines do not contain live virus. This means, you cannot get COVID-19 from a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines teach our bodies how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. (Vaccines also can't change your DNA or make you magnetic.)

[Get additional facts from the CDC.](#)

GET THE VACCINE.

Whether you're young and healthy, or already had COVID-19, vaccines decrease the chance of infection and reinfection, build longer lasting immunity and help protect those around you who can't get vaccinated, such as children under the age of 12.

[This study from the CDC](#) shows that those who are unvaccinated are twice as likely to get infected again.

THE DELTA VARIANT IS TWO TIMES MORE CONTAGIOUS.

Variants happen when a virus continues to replicate, mutate and infect the community. Some variants are stronger and more severe than others. As of August 2021, more than 90% of COVID-19 cases in West Michigan are due to the delta variant and occurring in mostly unvaccinated people. Vaccines are still highly effective against the delta variant and can help prevent future variants.

[Learn more about the risks of the delta variant from the CDC.](#)

VACCINES ARE RECOMMENDED FOR PREGNANT INDIVIDUALS.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology recommends that anyone eligible receives a vaccine including pregnant individuals, those wishing to become pregnant in the future and those lactating. There is currently no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines cause problems with pregnancy or fertility.

[Learn more about guidance from the ACOG.](#)

WEARING MASKS MAXIMIZES PROTECTION.

In most cases, fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask. However, with COVID-19 cases on the rise and the spread of the delta variant, the CDC recommends wearing a mask in public indoor spaces, particularly in areas of "substantial or high transmission." Masks are an effective tool to prevent spread of infection. Vaccination is even more effective.

[Learn more about the latest guidance from the CDC.](#)