What We Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

Presenter Name Here
Title and Command Here
Month ##, 2021
Overview

1. Your concerns are heard.
2. Information to consider…
3. What do the vaccines do?
4. Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?
5. What are the known risks?
6. We have faced other viruses before.
7. Where can I go to get a COVID-19 vaccine?
8. What do I need to do after a COVID-19 vaccine?
9. Questions and Discussion
Your concerns are heard.

- I have questions about the vaccine development process and timeline.
- I already had COVID-19 and have natural immunity.
- The vaccines are not licensed by FDA and are still experimental.
- I worry about getting COVID-19 and requiring hospitalization.
- I’m healthy and don’t usually get sick – or even an annual flu shot.
- I don’t want to get my family sick.
- The vaccine symptoms look worse than the virus symptoms.
- COVID-19 has the same mortality rate as the flu.
- I don’t want to impact my fertility/pregnancy/new baby.
- I just feel skeptical and don’t know who or what to believe.
- What’s the point if the public health protocols aren’t going away?
- There’s no long-term information to prove safety.
- I am being safe, and it has kept me healthy so far.
Information to consider...

1. Clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines were five times larger than normal drug testing standards.
2. mRNA technology stems from research that began in the 1990s, which is one reason companies were able to develop a vaccine quickly.
3. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long.
5. A vaccine builds an immune response that protects your health and the health of other people.
What do the vaccines do?

The Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccines and other COVID-19 candidate vaccines were developed to prevent infection from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

• Vaccines activate your body to make antibodies that can block entry of the SARS-CoV-2 into your cells. They take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins in order to trigger an immune response.

• The proteins are recognized by your immune system as foreign, and your body makes antibodies that prevent you from getting sick if exposed to real COVID-19 disease.

• Although the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the first mRNA vaccines, this technology has been under study for nearly two decades. These years of research are what make scientists confident that mRNA vaccines will not damage recipients' genes.

• The Janssen vaccine is a viral vector vaccine type. An adenovirus was modified to instruct cells to make the COVID-19 virus “spike” protein, which protects the person from getting infected with COVID-19.
Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Available COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness and hospitalization.

Over 164 million Americans have already received a COVID-19 vaccine. More than 2.5 million DoD personnel have chosen to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

*Data as of August 2, 2021*
Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

The same rigorous safety reviews of other vaccines authorized for use by the Food and Drug Administration have been applied to COVID-19 vaccines. The FDA and Centers for Disease Control continue to monitor safety.

The Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA, currently in place means that these vaccines are not fully approved or yet licensed by the FDA.

However, an EUA is issued based on the review of the scientific evidence available at this time that shows a vaccine is generally safe and effective.

The EUA also establishes that known and potential benefits of the vaccine used to prevent COVID-19 outweigh its known and potential risks.
About COVID-19, Delta Variant

COVID-19 case rates are rising again after a period of decline.

- The COVID-19 Delta variant has spread across the world and is now the predominant variant in the United States. COVID-19 cases are increasing across the country, up more than 300 percent nationally from June 19 to July 23.
- Compared to other variants, the Delta variant is more transmissible.
- Infections among vaccinated persons (i.e., breakthrough infections) are anticipated and have been reported, but are considered rare.
- The majority of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are occurring among individuals who are not fully vaccinated.
- The CDC now recommends COVID-19 vaccinated people resume wearing a face mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.
### What are the known risks?

#### Vaccine Side Effects
- Injection Site Pain, Swelling, and/or Redness
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle and Joint Pain
- Chills
- Nausea
- Swollen Lymph Nodes
- Rare Allergic Reactions

#### COVID-19 Symptoms
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle and Joint Pain
- Chills
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of Breath
- Difficulty Breathing
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sneezing
- Stuffy Nose
- Diarrhea
- Longer lasting symptom challenges

*This list is not all inclusive.*
CDC Mask Guidance

The CDC now recommends COVID-19 vaccinated people resume wearing a face mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.

The CDC has an online resource that lists county transmission levels to help inform decisions to wear masks in public indoor settings for COVID-19 vaccinated people:

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

If you go to CDC’s COVID-19 Data Tracker, you can look up your specific county where it highlights low, moderate, substantial, or high local transmission rates. If you’re located in a substantial or high area, everyone is recommended to wear a mask regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
We have faced other viruses before.

HISTORY PROVES

Vaccines Save Lives!

POLIO

SMALLPOX

WE’VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
WE KNOW WHAT TO DO — GET VACCINATED!

MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM (MHS)
Where can I go to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

TRICARE.mil/VaccineAppointments

You have options on where to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. You can go to military hospitals or clinics, TRICARE network providers, TRICARE network pharmacies and retail pharmacies.

TRICARE.mil/VaccineAppointments can help you find a vaccine site location near you.

There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine at TRICARE network and non-network pharmacies. If you get a COVID-19 vaccine outside of the DoD, please share that information to update your medical record.
What do I need to do after a COVID-19 vaccine?

We need to continue physically distancing, avoiding crowds and washing hands often until we’ve stopped the pandemic.

At this time, we don’t know how long the vaccine lasts. This is something we are still learning, which is why it’s important to continue public health measures, such as wearing a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Visit CDC.gov for the latest COVID-19 guidance.
Questions and Discussion