Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

**EFFECTIVENESS**

**WHAT WE KNOW**
- COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19.
- You should keep using available tools to protect yourself and others until you are fully vaccinated.
- **After you are fully vaccinated**, you may be able to start doing some things you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

**WHAT ARE STILL LEARNING**
- Scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus.
- We’re also still learning how long COVID-19 vaccines protect people.

**SAFETY**

**WHAT WE KNOW**
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
- These vaccines cannot give you COVID-19 or change your DNA.
- You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal.

**COST OF VACCINES**

**WHAT WE KNOW**
- The federal government is providing the vaccine FREE OF CHARGE to all people living in the U.S., regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

**POPULATION IMMUNITY**

**WHAT WE KNOW**
- Population immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they’ve already had the disease or because they’ve been vaccinated.

**WHAT ARE STILL LEARNING**
- We are still learning how many people have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before most people can be considered protected.

**NEW VARIANTS**

**WHAT ARE STILL LEARNING**
- We are still learning how effective the vaccines are against new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.

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If You've Been Fully Vaccinated

**Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?** People are considered fully vaccinated:
- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine

If you don’t meet these requirements, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking precautions until you are fully vaccinated.

**YOU CAN**
- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age
- Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness
- Travel domestically without a pre- or post-travel test and without quarantining after travel
- Travel internationally without a pre-travel test depending on destination
- Travel internationally without quarantining after travel

**YOU SHOULDN'T**
- Visit indoors, without a mask, with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- Attend medium or large gatherings

Download and print: What You Can Do Once You Have Been Fully Vaccinated

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Considerations for Taking Medication Before Getting Vaccinated

For most people, it is not recommended to avoid, discontinue, or delay medications for underlying medical conditions around the time of COVID-19 vaccination. However, your healthcare provider should talk to you about what is currently known and not known about the effectiveness of getting a COVID-19 vaccine when taking medications that suppress the immune system.

It is not recommended you take over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen, before vaccination for the purpose of trying to prevent vaccine-related side effects. It is not known how these medications may affect how well the vaccine works. However, if you take these medications regularly for other reasons, you should keep taking them before you get vaccinated. It is also not recommended to take antihistamines before getting a COVID-19 vaccine to try to prevent allergic reactions.

If you have questions about medications that you are taking, talk to your doctor or your vaccination provider.