

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS YOU CAN USE

December 14, 2020
Issue 3

New Perspective

The recent news about the COVID-19 vaccines has us excited about the future. We're looking forward to providing as much information about how this will impact our residents and team members. To keep you well informed, every couple days over the coming weeks, you can expect to receive an issue of Vaccine News You Can Use from us. We'll be sharing the latest vaccine news and updates, answering your questions, and dispelling myths and rumors about the vaccines. We'll also be sending around letters, videos, tips, and answers to frequently asked questions as we orchestrate vaccination for our residents and team members.

Get the vaccine—our best shot at getting back to normal.

THE HEADLINE

The COVID-19 vaccines have been proven to be safe in human trials.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

- Without question, no. The COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19. None of the COVID-19 vaccines pending approval or approved by the FDA use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- The vaccine does not contain any live COVID-19 virus.
- As with any vaccine, the purpose of the COVID-19 vaccine is to teach our immune systems to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Like with other vaccines, this can cause symptoms of illness, such as body aches. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity to fight the virus.
- It is possible that a person who receives the vaccine could have already been infected with the virus or become infected due to exposure after being vaccinated, but before the body has developed the antibodies to fight the virus.

Does the vaccine have side effects?

- In all vaccines, side effects are common and indicate the body's immune system is working to build immunity against viruses.
- Clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccines identified short-term, mild and moderate side effects that may include fever, fatigue, chills, headache, muscle or joint soreness, and injection site pain.

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How can we trust that the vaccine is safe?

- Given that COVID-19 vaccines were made more quickly than other vaccines, it is understandable to be concerned about their safety. That said, the emergency situation resulting from COVID-19 warranted an emergency response, but that does not mean that vaccine makers bypassed safety protocols or adequate testing.
- Phase 3 trials for COVID-19 vaccines have been much larger than for other vaccines. Typical clinical trials see 10,000 or less participants, and the COVID-19 vaccines have seen over 40,000 participants.
- The results from the trials have already undergone several rounds of review by independent groups of experts in immunology, statistics, infectious diseases, virology, and vaccinology. This includes the FDA, CDC, and several advisory groups.
- No serious safety concerns have been reported in either vaccine trial. Intensive safety monitoring will continue as vaccination occurs.

WHAT'S IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue we send of Vaccine News You Can Use will answer the question “Are the coming COVID-19 vaccines effective?” by addressing:

- How effective is the vaccine?
- Can I still get COVID-19 if I've been vaccinated?
- Does the vaccine help even if I get COVID-19?
- How long before I am immune to COVID-19 after I receive the vaccine?

If you have questions about Vaccine News You Can Use, please reach out to your executive director.