

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS YOU CAN USE

January 4, 2020
Issue 10

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

Looking back at some of the most frequently asked questions.

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Can the vaccines 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 or contain the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- 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 Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain aborted fetal tissue?

- No. This is false. The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were not created with fetal tissue, nor do they require fetal cell cultures when in the production process. The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain fetal tissue.

How much will the vaccine cost me?

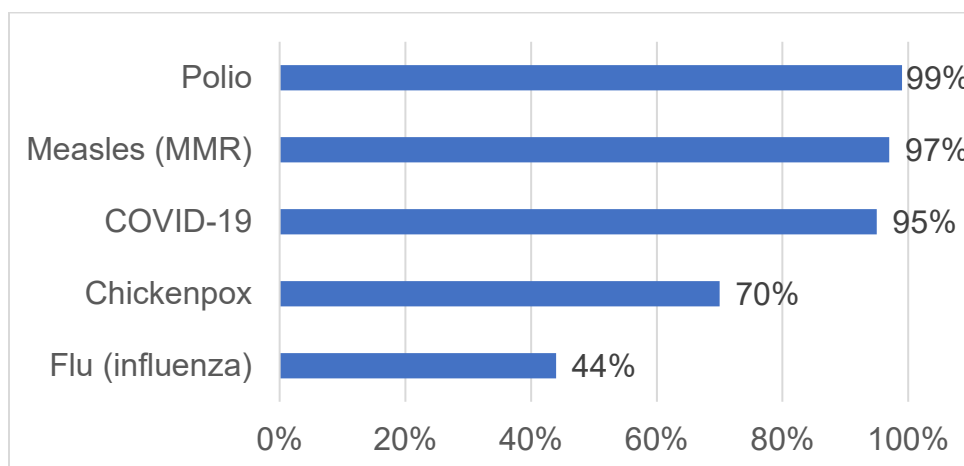
- Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost.
- Although the vaccine will be provided at no cost, if you have health insurance, you will need to provide your health insurance information to receive the vaccine. Health insurance is not a requirement to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

How can we trust that the vaccines are 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 60,000 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.
- No serious safety concerns have been reported in COVID-19 vaccine trials. Intensive safety monitoring will continue as vaccination occurs.

How effective are the vaccines?

- Clinical trials of the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines have proven to be about 95% effective.
- In order to receive authorization for use by the FDA, the COVID-19 vaccines were supposed to be 50% effective, so it is very inspiring that the vaccines are so much more effective. The vaccines are almost as effective as two vaccines for the most debilitating childhood diseases in history—both of which have been nearly eradicated.
- Examples of other vaccine effective rates include:



WHAT'S IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue we send of Vaccine News You Can Use will discuss some of the potential long-term health issues caused by COVID-19.

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