

COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS YOU CAN USE

December 23, 2020
Issue 8

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

I'm getting the vaccine. Now what?

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others after receiving the vaccine?

- Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic.
- After receiving the vaccine, you should continue covering your nose and mouth with a mask, washing your hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others.
- Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for protecting yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.
- There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.
- Not everyone will be getting the vaccine at the same time, so we'll be in masks and practicing social distancing for a little bit longer.

How long will the vaccine immunity last?

- We don't know yet. Some new data is suggesting that the body's T-cells, which store information about our immune system's response, could maintain their memory of the vaccine for years. Unfortunately, more time and study are needed to know for sure.

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How often will the vaccine be needed?

- This hasn't been determined yet. Right now, the vaccine includes a booster between 3 and 4 weeks after the first shot. More will need to be learned over the coming months and years to determine how long the vaccine lasts.
- Remember: You are not fully vaccinated until you receive the second shot.

Once I get the vaccine, can I still spread the virus to susceptible people?

- While the vaccine can prevent you from getting sick, it is currently unknown if you can still carry and transmit the virus to others. This is why infection control practices like mask wearing and social distancing will remain so important until everyone who can get vaccinated does get vaccinated.

Once I've been vaccinated, am I exempt from state lockdown restrictions?

- We don't know yet. It is possible that state and local governments will begin to implement exemptions to lockdown restrictions, but we won't know for sure until the vaccination process is well underway.

WHAT'S IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue we send of Vaccine News You Can Use will feature some of the most frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccines that's we have already answered.

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