



COVID-19 VACCINES

What You Need to Know | January 2021

COVID-19 is a serious illness that is very infectious, meaning it spreads easily from person-to-person. If enough people get vaccinated, the disease could be eliminated.

A vaccine helps your body protect itself from a serious infection. There are different types of vaccines. The first approved COVID-19 vaccines do not contain any coronavirus.

COVID-19 is a global public health threat so a lot of money and resources have been dedicated to finding ways to protect people. Researchers created a vaccine quickly, but they still had to show that it works, it is safe, and it meets the same standards as other vaccines (like for polio or measles).

Prior to FDA approval, all vaccines must be tested in thousands of people through three phases of clinical trials. An independent group reviews the data, which must show that known benefits outweigh any potential harm.

The government prioritizes those at high risk to get vaccinated first, but the exact timing depends on the supply. Your local town or county will use hospitals, pharmacies, and doctor's offices to distribute vaccines. It is **100% your choice** to get a vaccine.