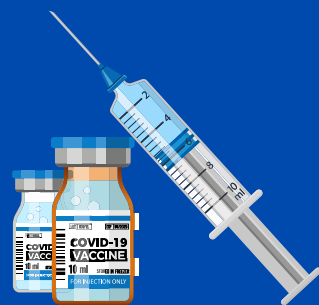


COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ'S



IS THE VACCINE SAFE & EFFECTIVE?

Yes! Available COVID-19 vaccines are authorized by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommended by the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The same steps were taken for testing and approval of COVID-19 vaccines that are used for all vaccines. Real-world data currently shows vaccination reduced the risk for COVID-19 hospitalizations by 94% among adults 65 and older who were fully vaccinated.



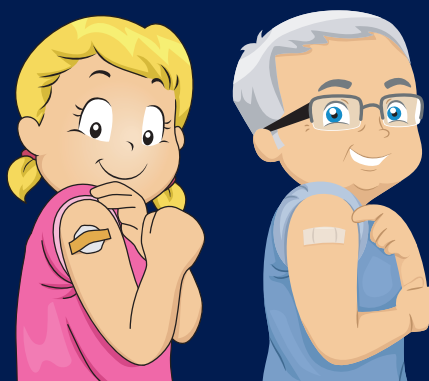
HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

Vaccines help our immune system fight infections in the future. The COVID-19 vaccine will help protect us from the virus that causes COVID-19 without having to get the illness. Vaccines teach your body how to recognize and fight the virus. The vaccine can help keep you from getting COVID-19, but even if you do get the virus, it can keep you from getting very sick or requiring hospitalization. It takes a few weeks after the final dose to become fully protected or "fully vaccinated".



WHO SHOULD & WHY GET THE VACCINE?

People age 16 & over who live, work, or study in Massachusetts are now eligible to receive the vaccine. You should get the vaccine as soon as you become eligible. If you have additional questions, contact your primary care provider. All COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S have shown to be very effective. Once fully vaccinated, individuals can start doing some pre-pandemic activities again safely like visiting with friends and non-household family members.



WHAT ARE THE COMMON SIDE EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE?

After receiving the vaccine, you may have some side effects or you may have none at all. Side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection. These include: pain, redness, and swelling in the arm where you received the shot, as well as tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea throughout the rest of your body. Side effects usually go away within a few hours to days.



HOW DO I GET A VACCINE?

Click on the link or navigate to the following websites:

To pre-register for a state vaccination site:

1. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/preregister-for-a-covid-19-vaccine-appointment>

To search for appointments in your area:

1. <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov/>
2. <https://vaccinefinder.org/>
3. <https://www.macovidvaccines.com/>
4. <https://vaccinatema.com/>



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM FULLY VACCINATED?

Once fully vaccinated, you can start doing many things that you may have stopped because of the pandemic. Some activities may be safer than others so it's important to consider how COVID-19 is spreading in your community, the number of people participating, and the location. The CDC recommends everyone continue to follow protective measures such as wearing a face covering in public, washing your hands often, getting tested routinely, and staying at least 6 feet away from non-household members. Continuing these protective measures gives you and others the best protection from catching the virus!



**What are you waiting for?
Schedule your covid-19 vaccine today!**

Remember, every person who chooses to get vaccinated brings us all one step closer to moving past the covid-19 pandemic.

For additional COVID-19 related information please visit the CDC's website: [Vaccines for COVID-19 | CDC](#) or the Bedford Health Department's website: [Health Department | bedfordma](#)

