

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

1. COVID-19 vaccination will help reduce your risk of severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization, and death

Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine helps keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. Getting vaccinated yourself also helps protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.²

2. Once you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing more

After you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19, you can start doing some things that you stopped doing because of the pandemic. Indoor and outdoor activities pose minimal risk to fully vaccinated people. Additionally, the risk of contracting COVID-19 is minimal for fully vaccinated people. The risk of viral transmission from fully vaccinated people to unvaccinated people is also reduced. Therefore, fully vaccinated people can:

- Participate in many of the activities that they did before the pandemic; for some of these activities, they may choose to wear a mask, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- Resume domestic travel and refrain from testing before or after travel and from self-quarantine after travel.
- Refrain from testing before leaving the United States for international travel (unless required by the destination) and refrain from self-quarantine after arriving back in the United States.
- Refrain from routine screening testing if feasible.

This guidance may be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

3. Free Vaccination

We are committed to providing a free COVID-19 vaccination experience to all Missourians, including those without insurance. No person can be billed for the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination providers may charge an administration fee to insurance, Medicaid or Medicare, if applicable in your situation. Uninsured Missourians will be able to receive the vaccine regardless of their health insurance status.³

4. COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection

COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications, and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you. Getting COVID-19 may offer some protection, known as natural immunity. However, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccines help protect people who are vaccinated from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19 and also help protect people around them.

5. COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic

CDC recommends getting vaccinated as soon as a vaccine is available to you. Wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart from others help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to be infected without showing symptoms (called an asymptomatic infection) or spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others.² Additionally, new forms, or variants, of the virus that causes COVID-19 have emerged. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States should work in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death from these variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including against new variants.⁵

6. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective

Clinical trials for all vaccines must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use, including COVID-19 vaccines. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine before it is used under what is known as an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).² Currently authorized vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19.⁶

7. None of the COVID-19 vaccines can make you sick with COVID-19

None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19, so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.²

Sources:

- 1) FAQs about COVID-19 Vaccination in the Workplace: For Employers
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/toolkits/FAQs-for-Employers_EW-Toolkit_508.pdf
(accessed Apr 12, 2021).
- 2) Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>
(accessed Apr 12, 2021).
- 3) COVID-19 Vaccine Information <https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/> (accessed Apr 16, 2021).
- 4) Post-vaccination Considerations for Workplaces
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/workplaces-businesses/vaccination-considerations-for-workplaces.html> (accessed Apr 26, 2021).
- 5) COVID-19 Vaccines Work. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/work.html> (accessed August 4, 2021).