

## Making the Decision to Get a COVID-19 Vaccine

### WHY SHOULD I GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?

We are all eager to see loved ones, travel, and reopen schools and businesses. Getting vaccinated and adhering to the 3Ws—wearing a mask, washing your hands, and watching your distance—will put us closer to achieving these goals. All available COVID-19 vaccines effectively prevent moderate cases of the infection and are extremely effective at preventing the severe disease that can lead to hospitalization and death.



### IS THERE A RISK OF GETTING COVID-19 FROM THE VACCINES?

No. None of the FDA-approved vaccines contain any live COVID-19 virus. Any temporary symptoms after being vaccinated are indications that the body is building immunity. The COVID-19 vaccines were developed through unprecedented government financial support and cooperation between medical experts and the public and private sectors. Every phase of every trial was carefully reviewed and approved by a safety board and the FDA.



### I'VE HEARD THE COVID-19 VACCINE HAS SIDE EFFECTS. WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

Serious side effects are very rare. Mild side effects, like soreness, headache, or fever, are signs that your body is building up protection against the virus and typically go away in one to two days. Even if you don't experience any side effects, your immune system is still building your protection against the virus. Vaccines don't generally have long-term side effects and there is no reason to believe the COVID-19 vaccine will.



### WILL THE VACCINE PROTECT ME AGAINST VARIANTS OF THE VIRUS?

All of the available COVID-19 vaccines provide some protection against known emerging variants. America's leading medical experts will continue to monitor variants and vaccine efficacy. The best way to protect yourself against the virus and variants is to get a vaccine when it's available to you.

