FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
COVID-19 VACCINES

What are the benefits of getting vaccinated?
COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19 and is a safer way to help build protection from getting gravely sick from COVID-19. The vaccine is the only way to help stop the pandemic.

Should I consult with my doctor before getting the COVID-19 vaccine?
Before getting the COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your doctor and let him/her know if you: have allergies, a fever, a weak immune system, if you're pregnant or are planning to be pregnant, if you are breastfeeding or if you have already received another COVID-19 vaccine.

How many shots of COVID-19 vaccine will be needed?
Both of the authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States need two doses to be effective.

What are the different COVID-19 vaccines in the United States?
There are two authorized and recommended vaccines in the United States. The Pzifer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 are the two authorized vaccines. There are some large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in progress or being planned for three other COVID-19 vaccines including: AstraZeneca, Janssen and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines.

Which COVID-19 vaccine is better?
The two authorized vaccines in the United States today are both just as effective. The only difference between the two is the lapsed time between each dose. Pfizer: 3 weeks and Moderna: 4 weeks.

What are some of the possible side effects?
Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine reported in clinical trials include mild or moderate fatigue, headache, muscle aches, tenderness, or other reactions at the injection site. Side effects typically lasted 1 to 2 days. These side effects are similar to those of other vaccines. In general, when people have side effects from a vaccine, it is a sign that the body's immune response is working.

What if I have an allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine?
There's a remote chance that the COVID-19 Vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction - it would usually occur within a few minutes to one hour after getting a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. You may be asked to stay at the place where you received vaccine for monitor after vaccination. If you experience severe allergic reaction, you will need to call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital.

Can I get both the Flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine?
You can get the COVID-19 vaccine and the Flu vaccine; however, they need to be 14 days apart.

Do you have to pay to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot to someone. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

If I already got COVID-19, should I still get the COVID-19 vaccine?
Even if you tested positive for COVID-19, you will need to get vaccinated when it's your turn. You will need to wait 90 days from the day you tested positive to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

When can I get my COVID-19 vaccine?
Federal health officials asked states to vaccinate all people over 65 and those with serious medical conditions. This is in addition to health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities, who still have priority. Based on these guidelines, state health officials will decide which groups are eligible in your area. For more information, consult the health department in your area.

Will a COVID-19 vaccination protect you from getting sick with COVID-19?
COVID-19 vaccination works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19, and this protects you from getting sick with COVID-19. Being protected from getting sick is important because even though many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness, have long-term health effects, or even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you don't have an increased risk of developing severe complications. Learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work.

If I get the vaccine, can I stop wearing a mask?
No. It will be important for everyone to keep using all available methods to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. These include covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing your hands often, avoiding gathering with people who don't live in your household, and staying at least 6 feet apart from others.

Is it safe to be around someone who got the COVID-19 vaccine if you haven't?
Getting vaccinated doesn't offer immediate protection. An individual who has received both doses of the vaccine could potentially unknowingly become infected without showing any symptoms. And that person could then pass COVID-19 along to his or her contacts without realizing it, despite being vaccinated. Researchers will have more information on this question in the coming months. That is why it's important to continue to wear a mask every time you come in contact with someone that doesn't live with you.