COVID-19 VACCINES
THE FASTEST WAY TO GET BACK TO LIFE

In the last year, Ohioans have stepped up to the challenge of the pandemic, and now, we're turning the corner. By taking the vaccine, we can take our lives into our own hands, and get back to living life to its fullest. Let's get back to working and living everyday life in Ohio the way we remember and love.

Doctors, nurses, pediatricians, and pharmacists agree the vaccine is safe and effective, and will protect you and your loved ones. Side effects are minimal, and for many people, are nonexistent. Every shot gets Ohio back to normal. **Let's get the pandemic under control once and for all.**

Don't hesitate to talk to a doctor or nurse if you have questions or concerns. Here are some of the questions medical professionals hear most often.

What are the side effects?

"As with any medication, the vaccine can cause some side effects. Any side effects are minor and last 24-48 hours. The most common are short-term fatigue, pain or swelling at the injection site, headache or a low-grade fever. These side effects are a sign that your body's natural immune response is working and developing protective antibodies to fight off the virus.

The chance of a serious reaction to a vaccine such as severe allergic reaction is extremely low. Don't believe rumors: the vaccine absolutely does not cause autism, infertility or alter a person's DNA. And you can't get COVID-19 from taking the vaccine. It's just not possible.

Remember that any side effects are minor in comparison the risk of serious illness from COVID-19. One day of feeling a little crummy to avoid getting the COVID-19 infection and getting really sick is a good trade."

Dr. Kevin Sharrett
Family Medicine & Primary Care
Kettering Physician Network, Cedarville

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Is the vaccine safe? Was it adequately tested?

"The vaccine was tested extensively before it received FDA authorization. The vaccine trials and research date back to the 2000s when researchers were studying SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) caused by a coronavirus spreading at the time. This vaccine was not rushed.

America's researchers didn't cut corners or take short cuts. America cut red tape and bureaucracy to find vaccines.

More than 135* million Americans and 6* million Ohioans have now safely been fully vaccinated and are protected from dying or getting seriously ill from COVID-19 thanks to the work started last year when Americans pulled together to research, develop and test the vaccines."

Brett Davis
Registered Pharmacist, Morton's Pharmacy, Portsmouth

*Data updated as of June 2, 2021.

Which vaccine should I take?

"You should get any COVID-19 vaccine that is available when you are eligible. Do not wait for a specific brand. All currently authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and the CDC does not recommend one vaccine over another."

Dr. Christina Canfield
Physician, Chief Medical Officer Fisher-Titus Medical Care, Norwalk

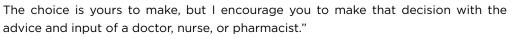## What about herd immunity? Can't I just wait?

"Achieving herd immunity will depend on Ohio's, and the country's, willingness to get the vaccine. The vaccine allows us to get closer to controlling and even ending this pandemic, but millions more need to be immunized. The faster we participate, the faster we can get back to normal."

Carole Merckle, MSN
Registered Nurse, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Athens

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"It's understandable to be cautious when something new comes along. People naturally want to do what is best for themselves and their family. So I encourage asking questions! There are answers for some common concerns including these: the vaccine does not contain any sort of microchip or tracking device; **there is zero chance it can change your body's RNA or DNA;** and there is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility. The clear benefits of getting vaccinated outweigh unknown and possibly nonexistent risks. The long-term side effects of COVID-19 are documented and devastating.

The choice is yours to make, but I encourage you to make that decision with the advice and input of a doctor, nurse, or pharmacist."

Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff
Granville, Chief Medical Officer, Ohio Department of Health.

GET VACCINATED.
IT'S SIMPLE AND IT'S FREE!

There is **NO out-of-pocket cost** and **you do not need insurance** to get it. Your provider may ask for your insurance, Medicare or Medicaid information for an administrative fee, but you will not be charged. Vaccines are available at hospitals, local health departments, pharmacies, and other locations.

To book an appointment

gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Or you can call

1-833-427-5634 (1-833-4-ASK-ODH)

To see a full list

vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov

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