COVID-19 VACCINE TOOLKIT

Employers and community organizations play a vital role in vaccine outreach. In an effort to answer frequently asked questions, provide education, and address any hesitation individuals might have, we created a COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit with resources for employers and community organizations.

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COVID-19 VACCINES ARE SAFE AND THEY WORK.

- There are currently three COVID-19 vaccines that have been issued Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This means the clinical evidence for the vaccines have met the agency's rigorous scientific standards and are considered to be safe and effective.

- COVID-19 vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history and millions of people in the United States have now been vaccinated.

- Vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19 without getting sick or putting ourselves and others at risk of severe illness and death.

- Getting vaccinated is a much safer way to build immune protection over getting the disease. COVID-19 can have serious, long-term or life-threatening complications, and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you.

- The vaccines are incredibly effective. Data from clinical trials indicate:
  - 95% efficacy rate for Pfizer's vaccine
  - 94.5% efficacy rate for Moderna's vaccine
  - 85% efficacy rate (for preventing severe disease) for Johnson & Johnson's vaccine

- You may have some side effects after getting vaccinated. That's a sign that your body is building protection and they should go away within a few days. Your arm may be sore or swollen. You may also feel tired, have a headache, fever, or chills. This does not mean you have COVID-19—it is not possible to get COVID-19 from vaccines.

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VACCINE MYTHS

You can get COVID from the vaccine.

I am worried that my fatigue and headache following the vaccine may mean I can get others around me sick.

You cannot get COVID from the vaccine.

The MRNA vaccines currently available for use in the U.S. do not contain any live or dead COVID virus. You cannot get others sick from the vaccine.

The COVID vaccine may impact fertility.

I have heard that the new technology used for the COVID vaccine can affect my ability to get pregnant now and in the future.

There is no evidence that any vaccines affect fertility.

Based on current knowledge, experts believe that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to a person trying to become pregnant in the short or long term.

The MRNA vaccine can alter my DNA.

I have heard that the new technology used for the COVID vaccine can alter my DNA.

THE MRNA vaccine cannot alter DNA.

The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way.

I do not need the vaccine if I already had COVID.

I am now safe from the virus.

Re-infection is possible with COVID so vaccine is recommended.

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19, you should receive the vaccine regardless of if have had the virus. Although uncommon, reinfection has been documented.

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How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

What is mRNA?

Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins.

What is in the vaccine?

The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.

How does the vaccine work?

The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the **spike protein**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.
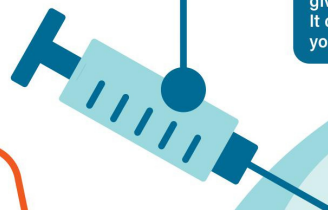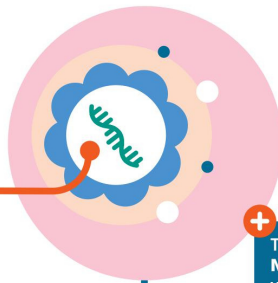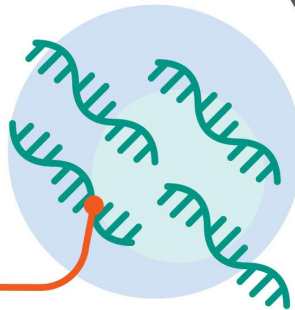
The vaccine **DOES NOT** contain **ANY** virus, so it cannot give you COVID-19. It cannot change your DNA in any way.

When your body responds to the vaccine, it can sometimes cause a mild fever, headache, or chills. This is completely normal and a sign that the vaccine is working.

Antibody

After the mRNA delivers the instructions, your cells break it down and get rid of it.

GETTING VACCINATED?

For information about COVID-19 vaccine, visit: **cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines**

FDA VACCINE FACTS

www.FDA.gov/COVID19vaccines

#FDAVaccineFacts

[1] Part of FDA's evaluation of an EUA request for a COVID-19 vaccine includes evaluation of the chemistry, manufacturing, and controls information for the vaccine. Sufficient data should be submitted to ensure the quality and consistency of the vaccine product. FDA will use all available tools and information, including records reviews, site visits, and previous compliance history, to assess compliance with current good manufacturing practices.

[2] FDA has made clear in its October 2020 guidance entitled Emergency Use Authorization for Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19, that, for a COVID-19 vaccine for which there is adequate manufacturing information to ensure its quality and consistency, issuance of an EUA would require a determination by FDA that the vaccine's benefits outweigh its risks based on data from at least one well-designed Phase 3 clinical trial that demonstrates the vaccine's safety and efficacy in a clear and compelling manner.

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Path for a COVID-19 Vaccine from Research to Emergency Use Authorization

A vaccine manufacturer conducts laboratory research to develop a vaccine candidate.

The manufacturer compiles the results of laboratory research and testing in animals and information about the manufacturing technology and the quality of the vaccine and must submit an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to FDA before beginning human clinical trials. Such a clinical trial in humans is not permitted to proceed without the prior written authorization from FDA.

Clinical trials are conducted to generate data on safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

A Data Safety Monitoring Board evaluates data from the Phase 3 clinical trial and advises the vaccine manufacturer regarding whether criteria for the pre-specified clinical endpoint, as discussed and agreed to in advance with FDA, has been met for their COVID-19 vaccine.

Company reviews data to determine whether the company's scientists and technical experts believe that the vaccine meets FDA's outlined expectations for safety and effectiveness.

Taking into consideration input from FDA, a company decides whether and when to submit a request for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to FDA.

Once submitted, career scientists and physicians in the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) will evaluate an EUA request taking into account the totality of scientific evidence about the vaccine that is available to FDA.[1]

FDA convenes a public meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) to discuss the data from the clinical trials.

Following the advisory committee meeting, CBER's career professional staff will consider the input of the advisory committee members and continue their evaluation to determine whether the available safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing data support authorization for use of the particular COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S.

If FDA determines that the criteria for an EUA are met, including that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine and that the manufacturing information is adequate to ensure its quality and consistency, FDA may authorize the vaccine for emergency use.[2]

FDA informs the company that its EUA has been authorized.

VACCINE HESITANCY AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

We understand that there are many people in our community that may still have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and may feel unsure or hesitant about getting it. For many of our employers and community members, it can be challenging to know how to address these concerns and feel confident in responding to questions.

Vaccine Hesitancy can show up in a variety of ways and for a variety of reasons. We want to offer tools and support to help you address hesitancy concerns in your circles of influence. Here are some types of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy you may come across and what you can do to help address them.

	Basic Response	Engaged Response	Best Response
Confidence Hesitancy *Struggling with trusting vaccine*	Hang posters, share flyers & reliable info/ resources, Start a social media campaign	Attend vaccine info presentation, Provide vaccine info when asked	Understand Motivational Interviewing(MI)– initiate vaccine conversations using methods
Complacency Hesitancy *Don't think the vaccine is needed or warranted*		Share need for vaccine with people in personal life & on social media	Promote/Incentivize vaccine participation, Become a "vaccine advocate"
Convenience Hesitancy *Perceived or actual access challenges*	Help with vaccine scheduling challenges– schedule individuals for vaccine appointments	Provide information about vaccine, Support transportation needs	Offer onsite clinic, Recruit vaccine participants & address vaccine hesitations

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VACCINE FACT SHEETS

- **Pfizer -** https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download

- **Moderna-** https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download

- **Johnson & Johnson -** https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download

- **V-Safe Forms -** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/pdfs/v-safe-information-sheet-508c.pdf

V-safe is a new smartphone-based tool that helps CDC monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines through the use of text messaging and web surveys. These health check-ins allow you to tell CDC how you are feeling after receiving a dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Depending on your answers, someone from CDC may call to check on you.

EMPLOYER OPTION: OFFSITE CLINIC

Offsite clinics are ones that are at a location away from your workplace, such as the Springfield-Greene County Health Department Vaccination Clinic.

- This is the best option for workplaces with few staff, staff in multiple locations and shifts who are eager to receive the vaccine.

- Identify the event that is going to work best for your schedule: vaccine417.com. Make this option available to your staff and let them know how they register & sign up.

- Most vaccination events are held during business hours, so consider your staffing needs.

EMPLOYER'S ROLE

- Share our scheduling flyer found on page 12. This includes the information your staff needs to get signed up for a vaccination appointment.

- Allow staff to schedule appointments during their shift.

- Make vaccine education resources available to the entire workplace. Find these on pages 2-6.

- Create incentives for Employees who make an effort to receive their vaccine. Examples include gift cards or extra vacation days.

- Direct individuals with questions to the Springfield-Greene County Health Department at (417) 874-1211 or coronavirus@springfieldmo.gov.

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EMPLOYER OPTION: ONSITE CLINIC
Onsite clinics are ones that are at your direct location.

- A good option for workplaces or organizations with more staff needing the vaccination, and the best option for workplaces that have employed or contract health care staff.

- How it works:
  - **Onsite Vaccine Clinic with Volunteer/Staff Vaccinator(s)** – We schedule a vaccine clinic time, send over a Health Department nurse supervisor and vaccine supply to support an independent onsite vaccine clinic at your location.
  - **Health Department Led Onsite Vaccine Clinic** – We would ask you to provide an estimate for eligible individuals that could be served at your location and we will look at scheduling something for your organization.

EMPLOYER'S ROLE

- Check out our <u>Organization Guide for Hosting a COVID-19 Vaccination Event</u>

- Make vaccine education resources available to the entire workplace prior to the event. Find these on page 13.

- Schedule and coordinate appointments for staff receiving the vaccine during the allotted time, especially if they are coming in from multiple locations or when they are off the clock.
  - If receiving Pfizer or Moderna, be prepared to do this again in 21 or 28 days.

- Create incentives for Employees who make an effort to receive their vaccine. Examples include gift cards or extra vacation days.

- Reach out to us at coronavirus@springfieldmo.gov if you have many employees that are currently uninterested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

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TEMPLATES FOR VACCINE OUTREACH

E-Mail Template

This e-mail template was designed for you to send to your employers or the individuals your organization serves.

SUBJECT: COVID-19 vaccine-It's time to #FinishStrong

It's hard to imagine a time when we didn't know COVID-19 existed. Now when people say "virus," we know what they mean. The impact of COVID-19 on our lives, our activities, and our freedom has affected us all. We are weary .But, the responsibility is ours, as a community, to help stop this virus. Now we have a new, safe, and effective tool to help us do that—COVID-19 vaccines.

It takes everyone.

It's time for our community to #FinishStrong. We ask you to join us in protecting yourself, your coworkers, and our community by getting vaccinated.

Getting vaccinated adds an important layer of protection for us all. Here are some things you should know about the COVID-19 vaccine:

- *All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are very effective at preventing the disease.*

- *The most common side effects are pain in the arm where you got the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills, and fever. These typically resolve within 1-2 days following the vaccine.*

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available—wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, washing your hands frequently, and getting vaccinated.

We want everyone in our community to be safe and get back to hugging our families and friends and shaking hands with our neighbors.

We all play a part in this effort, and you are key. Please visit http://health.springfieldmo.gov/vaccineregistration for steps to register and schedule your COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have questions about vaccination clinics in Greene County, please contact the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Call Center at 417-874-1211 or reach out by email at coronavirus@springfieldmo.gov.

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram Messaging

Share the following messages to your social channels to encourage others to get vaccinated.

CDC Messaging Campaign Details/Images can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/vaccination-toolkit.html.

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The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is now vaccinating all Missourians ages 12 and older. At this time, teens ages 12-17 are only eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Follow the instructions below to get vaccinated with the Health Department.

READY

REGISTER

While walk-ins are always welcome, pre-registering can save time! Once you are registered, Vaccine Navigator will generate an 8-10 digit Patient ID. Please bring this ID number on the day of your vaccination.

» **SIGN UP USING COVIDVACCINE.MO.GOV/NAVIGATOR**

SET

SCHEDULE

Schedule an appointment or learn about walk-in opportunities available near you.

» **CALL 874-1211 OR VISIT VACCINE417.COM TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT**

GO

COME TO VACCINE EVENT

Please bring your identification and your patient ID number (from Vaccine Navigator) to your appointment.

Please note: you will not be charged anything out of pocket for your vaccine

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL 417-874-1211.

New events added regularly! Visit vaccine417.com to schedule or scan the QR code with your smartphone

SCAN ME

DON'T WAIT, VACCINATE!

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is now vaccinating all Missourians ages 12 and older. At this time, teens ages 12-17 are only eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Walk-ins always welcome, but save time by pre-registering through Missouri's Vaccine Navigator program. Once you are registered, Vaccine Navigator will generate an 8-10 digit Patient ID. Bring this ID number to your vaccination.

SIGN UP AT COVIDVACCINE.MO.GOV/NAVIGATOR

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GUIDANCE FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

The CDC has updated guidance for individuals who have been fully vaccinated. An individual is considered fully vaccinated when they are 2 weeks out from their last vaccine dose (2nd for Pfizer/Moderna and 1 dose for Johnson & Johnson)

What's changed if you've been fully vaccinated?

- Fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting.
- If you have been in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to quarantine or get tested unless you have symptoms.
- People who are fully vaccinated can travel safely within the United States.
- Fully vaccinated individuals may travel internationally, but need to pay close attention to the conditions at their destination before traveling.

What hasn't changed if you've been fully vaccinated?

- Individuals will still be expected to follow guidance and guidelines within their workplace.
- Individuals should continue to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

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ROAD TO RECOVERY

Interested in finding out the percentage of Greene County residents who are currently vaccinated? Want to know the 7 day average for local COVID cases?

- You can find information about our local vaccine progress and The Road to Recovery by checking out our local Recovery Dashboard here: https://www.springfieldmo.gov/5068/Coronavirus

TESTING FOR COVID-19

- COVID-19 testing is still advised when anyone (vaccinated or not) experiences symptoms that could be related to COVID-19.
- Testing is widely available in our community and can be accessed at no cost, if needed. To find out more details about testing access locally, check out our website at health.springfieldmo.gov/testing or call 417-874-1211 for an appointment.

QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

- Those experiencing COVID-19 symptoms who are awaiting testing and anyone who is not fully vaccinated and has been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive individual should quarantine. Quarantine means that a person suspected to have higher risk of contracting COVID-19 stays home, away from others, and does not go to work or school.
- A close contact is anyone who has been within 6 feet of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 for 15+ cumulative minutes when they are infectious. A person is considered infectious with COVID in the 48-hours prior to symptoms appearing and through the 10+ days they are symptomatic.
- If someone is identified as a close contact, they should quarantine for 10 days from the last day of close contact exposure. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they begin to experience any symptoms and should isolate if they become ill with COVID-19. A person can be released on day 8 of their quarantine if they remain asymptomatic and test negative for COVID-19 5+ days after their last exposure.
- To find out more about recommendations for quarantine and isolation, check out our website here: health.springfieldmo.gov/quarantine

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VACCINE FAQ

When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?
- Opportunities to get vaccinated are available! Individuals 12 and older can find a clinic at vaccine417.com

How much do COVID-19 vaccines cost?
- All COVID vaccines in the U.S. are currently being offered free of charge for the patient. Some charges may be submitted to insurance companies for administration.

What are the most common side effects from the vaccine?
- Some side effects to the vaccine are normal and a sign that your body is building protection against COVID-19. Common side effects are arm soreness or redness, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea . These side effects could affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. For more information on side effects and what to expect, check out the CDC web page here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-   ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html

How long does the COVID-19 vaccine provide protection?
- According to the CDC, we don't know how long protection lasts for those who are vaccinated.
- Experts are working to learn more about both natural and vaccine-induced immunity.

When am I fully vaccinated?
- Someone is considered fully vaccinated after two weeks have passed from their final dose of the COVID vaccine (Pfizer/Moderna - 2nd dose, Johnson & Johnson – 1 dose).

Do I still have to wear a mask and distance from others after I have gotten the vaccine?
- Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, individuals who are fully vaccinated no longer have to wear a mask or distance from others.

Do I need to get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have already had COVID?
- Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare —that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again.
- Those who received COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- If you have questions about your unique health situation, please reach out to your doctor for guidance on receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

What ingredients are in the COVID-19 vaccines?
Vaccine ingredients can vary by manufacturer. To learn more about the ingredients in authorized U.S. COVID-19 vaccines, see:
- Pfizer - https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download
- Moderna - https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download
- Johnson & Johnson - https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download

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