Why Should I Get Vaccinated for COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new disease, requiring new vaccines. It is smart to have questions about how well the vaccine works, whether it is safe for you, and if it’s easy to get.

COVID-19 vaccines save lives
All three COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the United States—Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) —worked very well in large clinical trials.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe
Most people have an immune response or mild side effects, like a sore arm or headache, from the COVID-19 vaccines.

People who are vaccinated are highly protected against COVID-19.
Lots of different people have gotten the COVID-19 vaccine with the same great results, including Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Indigenous, and other people of color; people with health conditions; and pregnant people.

More than 157 million people across the US have been fully vaccinated as of July 6.

More than one million COVID-19 shots administered in Rhode Island, as of July 7.
Severe side effects from the COVID-19 vaccines are extremely rare. A small number of people have reported a rare and severe blood clot one to two weeks after getting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine—at a rate of 7 events per 1 million vaccinations among women age 18 to 49.

The odds of getting very sick from COVID-19 are much higher than the odds of having serious side effects from the vaccine.

The vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. The vaccines do not affect anyone’s ability to get pregnant or have a baby. There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines can affect fertility. They have been shown to be safe and effective during pregnancy. They cannot change your DNA. Even if you’ve had COVID-19, you should still get vaccinated to protect yourself against other variants.

“This is important for our community, and this is important for our present and our future. We’ll be calling, we’ll be talking, we’ll be asking, we’ll be pleading—but most importantly, we want to see everyone get vaccinated.”

Pastor Howard Jenkins, Bethel AME Church, Providence

c19vaccineri.org | covid.ri.gov
Why Should I Get Vaccinated for COVID-19?

The more people who get vaccinated, the more likely the pandemic will come to an end. If all Rhode Islanders get vaccinated when it’s their turn, we can get back to living our lives with family, friends, work, school, and fun. Your shot gets us one step closer.

COVID-19 vaccines are based on decades of science and work

Researchers around the globe came together to develop COVID-19 vaccines quickly because so many lives were at stake. They did not skip any steps studying and testing and reviewing the COVID-19 vaccines and testing the COVID-19 vaccines.

No pork products, DNA, or fetal cells are in the vaccines.

You can choose which COVID-19 vaccine you get when making an appointment. Visit C19vaccineri.org to learn more.

COVID-19 vaccines are free for all people in Rhode Island

The vaccines cost nothing. You do not need insurance. You do not need to give information about immigration status.

Vaccine appointments are offered near most neighborhoods. Visit health.ri.gov/vaccinesites to find a COVID-19 vaccination site near you.

There are more than 180 places to get vaccinated across Rhode Island.

You can get help finding a clinic, getting transportation, and scheduling an appointment in multiple languages by calling 844-930-1779 or 211. If you cannot leave your home, you can get someone to bring the vaccine to you by visiting C19vaccineRI.org.

“I think you also have a responsibility to yourself and to your community and to your family to do your research and to get the vaccine.”

Virginia L. Thimas, Member of Bethel AME Church, Providence

It's okay if you still have questions. Talk to a trusted healthcare provider. Visit C19vaccineRI.org to learn more. Email RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov or call 401-222-8022 for any COVID-19 questions.

Hear more about the COVID-19 vaccine from community leaders at bit.ly/vaxRicommunity