Why Should I Get Vaccinated for COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new disease that has spread around the world since 2019. Getting COVID-19 makes people very sick. A vaccine is a medicine that can prevent you from getting sick. Because COVID-19 is a new disease, we need new vaccines.

What to know about COVID-19 vaccines?

- Many COVID-19 vaccines are being made. Some require you to get two shots. The second shot is a booster. You get it three to four weeks after your first shot.
- The vaccine is free. You do not need insurance. You do not need to give information about immigration status.

Do I HAVE to get the vaccine?

- No, it is your choice to get the COVID-19 vaccine but some employers and schools may require it.
- The vaccine is important for the health of people with disabilities and all those around them, like family members, friends, and healthcare providers. Everyone plays an important role in reducing the risk of COVID-19 by getting a vaccine. The more people who get vaccinated, the faster the pandemic will end. If all Rhode Islanders get vaccinated when it’s their turn, we can get back to living our life with family, friends, work, school, and fun. Your shot gets us one step closer.

COVID-19 vaccines save lives

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

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, Indigenous, and other people of color; people with health conditions; people with disabilities; and pregnant people.

More than 141 million people across the US have been fully vaccinated as of June 11.

c19vaccineri.org | covid.ri.gov
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Why is the COVID-19 vaccine important for people with developmental disabilities?

- People with disabilities who receive supports may be more likely to be in contact with someone who has COVID-19. Some people with disabilities who get COVID-19 get sicker than others because they may have illnesses that make it hard for their body to fight the disease.

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 testing and reviewing the COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccines are available all over Rhode Island

- Vaccines are available at pharmacies, doctor offices, and at special events like vaccination clinics at the beach or zoo.
- You can get help finding a clinic, getting transportation, and scheduling an appointment in multiple languages by calling 844-930-1779 or by visiting C19VaccineRI.org.
- If you cannot leave your home, you can get someone to bring the vaccine to you by visiting C19vaccineRI.org.

Do I need to wear a mask after I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

- If you are fully vaccinated (this means you have gotten all the recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and 14 days have passed since you got your final dose), you only need to wear a mask in certain situations. For example, if a business requires it, in healthcare settings like hospitals and doctors' offices, and on public transportation. To stay up to date on when a mask is required, you can visit covid.ri.gov/prevention.

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 question. You can also call the Point at 401-462-4444.

- Elizabeth Santana of Woonsocket

"The reason I decided to receive the vaccine was to protect the health of my daughter since her health can be compromised."

- Elizabeth Santana of Woonsocket