



## **5 REASONS TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE**

### **1. The vaccine will help keep you from getting the virus.**

Vaccines approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) have shown the ability to substantially reduce your risk of getting COVID-19. Scientists believe that even if you do get COVID-19 after being vaccinated, your risk of serious complications is greatly reduced.

Getting vaccinated will help you, your friends, family and other members of your community, especially those at increased risk for death or serious illness.

### **2. We don't know enough about "natural immunity" when it comes to COVID-19.**

With some viruses, after you've been infected, your body develops a natural defense against getting it again. Because COVID-19 is so new, we don't have enough evidence to determine if that is the case. In addition, relying on natural immunity is risky because it's so hard to predict when COVID-19 will cause serious complications and death.

### **3. Vaccines are being carefully tested and evaluated.**

While it may seem as if COVID-19 vaccines are being "rushed" to market, they in fact have been tested in clinical trials just like other vaccines and meet strict standards. By the time any vaccine is approved for distribution, it's been tested on thousands of people and has demonstrated no significant harmful side effects.

More than 50,000 people are enrolled in COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials. People were recruited for these trials to see how the vaccines protect people of different ages, races and ethnic groups as well as those with different medical conditions. The FDA, which has rigorous approval standards, approved the Pfizer vaccine for emergency use on Dec. 11.

#### **4. The vaccine will not give you COVID-19.**

None of the COVID-19 vaccines in development use the live virus that causes COVID-19. The goal of vaccines is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms like a mild fever. The vaccine will not cause you to test positive on viral tests for COVID-19.

#### **5. It's one of our best tools to stop the spread of the virus.**

While wearing masks, social distancing and washing your hands are very important to help prevent COVID-19 spread, we need to use every tool we have to fight COVID-19. Even if you take every precaution, you could still be exposed to COVID-19. Getting vaccinated will prepare your immune system to help fight off infection.

### **Want to learn more? Check out these Resources:**

#### **For reading:**

1. [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\): Answering Your Questions about the New COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

#### **For viewing:**

2. [Ohio Health Video: Vaccine Q & A with Dr. Joseph Gastaldo](#)  
This video is about 45 minutes and is very informative.
3. [Channel 10 Interview with Dr. Joseph Gastaldo](#)  
This TV interview is 2 minutes 45 seconds. While the interview was done in November, before the vaccine was approved, it contains concise information to answer your questions.