

# **It's okay to have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. Here's what you should know.**

## **IT'S SAFE & EFFECTIVE.**

Before being approved, the vaccines currently being used were tested on thousands of people and have been safely given to more than 180 million and counting. Severe side-effects are extremely rare.

## **IT CAN HELP HEALTHY, YOUNG PEOPLE TOO**

COVID-19 can be severe for anyone. The protection you get from the vaccine is not just for yourself, but for others around you. The more individuals who are vaccinated, the less the virus can continue to transmit and the faster we can get out of this pandemic.

## **THE VACCINES REDUCE YOUR CHANCE OF GETTING REALLY SICK.**

The vaccines that are currently available are very effective and prevented hospitalization and death 100 percent of time. If you do get sick, your risk of needing to go to the hospital or dying is almost zero.

## **YOU WILL PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND OTHERS AROUND YOU.**

Wearing a mask, keeping gatherings small, and maintaining social distance help keep you from being exposed to COVID-19. The vaccine will help your body fight the virus if you are exposed and prevent the spread of the virus to those around you. You'll have the best protection if you use all these together.

## **YOU CAN'T GET COVID-19 FROM TAKING THE VACCINE.**

You may feel some temporary soreness on your arm, where the injection was placed, muscle or joint aches, a headache, fatigue, chills or a low-grade fever. That just means your immune system is kicking in and the vaccine is working.

**To find a vaccination site near  
you or for more information  
about the vaccines, visit  
[www.IDidItSFL.com](http://www.IDidItSFL.com).**

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# Get the information you need to make the best decision for your family.

## IT'S FREE!

And that's for everyone! Still, when you make an appointment, you may be asked to provide your health insurance card. But if you don't have insurance at all, you will still be vaccinated at no cost to you.

## THE VACCINES WERE THOROUGHLY TESTED.

All the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same standards as any other vaccines produced through the years. Plus, there is a system in place across the entire country that allows the Centers for Disease Control to continuously monitor for any issues and make sure the vaccines stay safe.

## YOU DON'T NEED TO SHARE YOUR IMMIGRATION STATUS.

COVID-19 vaccines are available to all Florida resident, regardless of immigration status. Your privacy will be protected.

## WHEN IN DOUBT, TALK TO A DOCTOR.

If you have specific questions about your health and whether the vaccine is right for you, ask a health professional! Even if you don't have a usual source of health care, you can find free or low-cost providers at [findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov](https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov).

## VACCINES ARE NOW WIDELY AVAILABLE.

All Floridians, with the exception younger children, are now eligible to receive the vaccine, which is available at most hospital systems, vaccination sites operated by the Florida Department of Health, community organizations and municipalities plus various retailers and pharmacies.

To find a vaccination site near you or for more information about the vaccines, go to

[www.IDidItSFL.com](http://www.IDidItSFL.com)

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# KEY TALKING POINTS

## PRIMARY TALKING POINT:

**"The vaccine protects you, your family and everyone around you."**

### SUPPORTING STATEMENTS:

- If you get COVID-19, you may not get sick, but you could pass it along to a family member, neighbor or friend who could get seriously sick or have long-term health issues due to the disease.
- Even if you've had COVID-19, doctors still recommend getting vaccinated to make sure you're protected long-term. We still don't know how long natural immunity lasts for someone who was infected and has recovered.

## PRIMARY TALKING POINT:

**"The vaccines are safe and they work."**

### SUPPORTING STATEMENTS:

- The vaccines have been tested on thousands of people from diverse populations, including Black and Latino ones. This helped scientists determine it was safe and effective for a variety of communities.
- The vaccine has already been safely administered to more than 180 million people. Severe side-effects are extremely rare and no one has died.
- You can't get COVID-19 from the vaccines. It's impossible. You may have some side effects for a day or two.
- Scientists have known a lot about coronavirus-related diseases for decades. This means they had a head start at gathering the information they needed to develop the vaccine—and that's one reason they were able to do it so quickly.

## PRIMARY TALKING POINT:

**"The vaccine will help our community move forward."**

### SUPPORTING STATEMENTS:

- It's the best and fastest way for us to safely get back to life and activities with family, friends and loved ones.
- We realize you may be hesitant. It's good to ask questions. We'd like to help you get the answers you need so you can make the best decision for you and your family.

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## 5 reasons the vaccine is so important for South Florida's Black & Latino communities.

1

### COVID-19 HAS HIT US HARDER.

The Black and Latino communities in Florida have significantly higher rates of cases and hospitalizations than the white, non-Hispanic population. Black people in particular represent less than 20% of the population in Florida, but have experienced five times the hospitalizations.

2

### WE ARE MORE AT RISK.

Black and Latino people are more likely to be essential workers, and less likely to be able to work from home so they can isolate from others. In addition, we tend to live in larger, multi-generational households, which means our extended families are more vulnerable to being exposed to the virus.

3

### WE ARE LIKELIER TO GET MORE SEVERELY SICK.

That's because conditions like diabetes and heart disease are very common in the Black and Latino communities, and those illnesses can make a case of COVID-19 more severe and deadly.

4

### WE ARE BEHIND IN GETTING THE VACCINE.

In Broward, the Black population makes up 38 percent of hospitalizations due to COVID-19—but only 8 percent of those vaccinated. In Miami-Dade, they make up 18 percent of hospitalizations and 7 percent of those vaccinated. Latinos in Broward make up 25 percent of hospitalizations and 22 percent of those vaccinated. In Miami-Dade, it's 68 percent of hospitalizations and 50 percent of those vaccinated.

5

### THE VACCINES WERE MADE WITH EVERYONE IN MIND.

Being part of a high-risk population for COVID-19 infection does not mean you are destined to become infected. And it does not mean you are powerless to protect yourself. Don't let distrust or hesitation prevent you from accessing a life-saving vaccine.

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To find a vaccination site near you or for more information about the vaccines, visit

[www.IDidItSFL.com](http://www.IDidItSFL.com)

# LET'S BUST SOME COVID VACCINE MYTHS!

FACT

You can't get COVID from the vaccine!

FACT

The vaccine does not alter your DNA.

FACT

The vaccine is safe and it works. The vaccines that are currently available prevented hospitalization and death 100 percent of the time.

FACT

Even if you already had COVID, you should get vaccinated because some people get infected again.

FACT

The technology used to make the vaccines was developed over many years. The extent and quality of the testing of the vaccine met all the normal standards for vaccines.

To get more facts about the vaccine or to find a vaccination site near you, go to

[www.IDidItSFL.com](http://www.IDidItSFL.com)

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