

COVID-19 VACCINES: KEY FACTS & BENEFITS

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Employers and people in management and leadership positions continue to play a vital role in providing a safe work environment, promoting risk reducing behaviors and encouraging worker vaccination.

COVID-19 Vaccines Approved in the United States

Manufacturer	Vaccine Course	FDA Status	Approved for Age
Pfizer	Three doses. The first and second doses are separated by 3 to 8 weeks and the second and third doses are separated by at least	Emergency Use Authorization	6 months-4 years old
	Two doses, 21 days apart	Emergency Use	5-15 years old
		Full FDA Approval	16 years and older
Moderna	Two doses, 28 days apart	Emergency Use Authorization	6 months-17 years old
		Emergency Use Authorization	18 years and older
Johnson & Johnson (J&J)	One dose	Emergency Use Authorization	18 years and older
Novavax	Two doses	Emergency Use Authorization	18 years and older

People are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series OR two weeks after a single dose vaccine. If it's been less than two weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you're not fully vaccinated.

Booster Shot Recommendations

- ▶ If you received the **Pfizer** or **Moderna** vaccine initially, you are eligible for a booster shot **five months** after completion of your two-dose course
- ▶ If you received the **J&J** vaccine initially, you are eligible for a booster shot **two months** after your first dose
- ▶ Adults age 50 and older and people age 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are eligible for two boosters.
- ▶ You are eligible for a booster regardless of your age, health status or job setting
- ▶ The CDC has approved a “mix and match” approach for booster shots. You can get a Pfizer, Moderna or J&J booster regardless of which vaccine you initially received.

The Purpose of Vaccines: Sickness vs. Transmission

COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at protecting people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19 disease, hospitalization and death. Vaccines help reduce the spread of the virus and continue to be a leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Points About Vaccination

- ▶ You can help stop the pandemic by getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Get vaccinated when it is available to you.
- ▶ COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
- ▶ After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some short-term side effects. These are normal signs that your body is building protection.

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

- ▶ The vaccine will help protect you from getting mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.
- ▶ The vaccine will help keep you from getting seriously sick, needing to be hospitalized or dying if you do get COVID-19.
- ▶ The vaccine is much safer than the natural protection that comes with getting and recovering from COVID-19. This disease can have serious, life-threatening complications and lasting health effects.
- ▶ You will still need to follow the laws, rules and regulations where you live and work.

Steps to Promote Vaccination

LIUNA District Councils, Local Unions, health and welfare funds, signatory contractors and all LIUNA affiliates can promote and encourage COVID-19 vaccination by taking the following steps:

- ▶ Educate members, share information and answer questions. Utilize the Fund's COVID-19 resources, available on the Fund's resource page: www.lhsfna.org/covid-19-resources.
- ▶ Focus on why members would want the vaccine, with an emphasis on their health and the safety of their loved ones and coworkers.
- ▶ Help members pre-register for the vaccine. Some public health departments have set up websites where you can make appointments; other areas are holding mass vaccination events. Look for details on how to sign up on your state or local health department website and share this information. Here is a directory of state and territorial health department websites: www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html.
- ▶ Offer scheduling flexibility, such as staggered shifts, to make it easier for members to get vaccinated. If vaccination needs to occur during work hours, pay workers for the time it takes to get vaccinated.
- ▶ Consider hosting a COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Utilize the Fund's *COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics* guidance document for more information.

Additional Resources

Visit the Fund's COVID-19 Resource page at www.lhsfna.org/covid-19-resources. For specific questions not covered above, contact the Fund at 202-628-5465 or by email at communications@lhsfna.org.

Know Your COVID-19 Vaccine Facts



Vaccine Myth	Vaccine Fact
It was rushed and isn't safe.	Researchers took no safety shortcuts. Studies show it is safe.
It changes your DNA.	It's impossible for the vaccine to change your DNA.
It can give you COVID-19.	The vaccine doesn't contain a live virus strain.
It contains egg protein.	It doesn't contain egg proteins and can be given to people with egg allergies.
It causes severe side effects.	For most, the vaccine causes mild side effects that resolve in a few days.
It makes women infertile.	There is no evidence that the vaccine causes infertility.

*Based on Sanford Health COVID-19 Vaccines Debunking The Myths graphic.