

#HBCUsAgainstCOVID



#HBCUsAgainstCOVID
Social Media Toolkit

Historical Black College and University COVID Awareness & Resilience Day is collaborative initiative with members and supporters of the HBCU Emergency Management Workforce Consortium, which is housed at Howard University Telehealth Training Center and is proud partner of the [U.S. Health and Human Services COVID-19 Community Corps](#) and the [Made to Save Campaign](#).



#HBCUsAgainstCOVID



Table of Contents

Our Why.....3

What we Believe.....3

Our Goal.....3

Three Ways to Engage in Social Media4

 Share Your Story!.....4

 Post on Social Media using #HBCUsAgainstCOVID4

 Share Resources from Trusted Partners4

HBCU-CARD Social Media Messaging (Graphic + Text)5

HBCU-CARD Social Media Messaging (Text Only)14

Resources from Trusted Partners.....17

Key Things to Know About COVID-19.....18

Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-1920

HBCU COVID Awareness and Resilience Day – (HBCU-CARD) is a collaborative effort of members from the HBCU Emergency Management Workforce Consortium dedicated to raising awareness about the unequal burden of COVID-19 and mobilizing our African American Communities to build equity against this pandemic.

May 4, 2021 marks the first in the series of COVID Awareness & Resilience activities.

All HBCU-CARD efforts are led and owned by the students, faculty and staff.

For more about the HBCU Emergency Management Workforce Consortium please visit: <https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc>



Our Why

Racial disparity remains a persistent, intractable force that continues unabated in and around historically underserved communities in which many of our HBCUs are housed. Whether primarily by lack of access, to some hesitancy, or a healthy dose of mistrust towards the U.S. health care system in general and the vaccination in particular, data show that African Americans are dying from COVID-19 at higher rates than other ethnic groups. Conversely, this group is getting vaccinated at lower rates. So how do we develop trust and save the lives of our communities? Linking the academic community to promote and engage the wider community is one innovative approach to tackle this disparity. Specifically, the trusted voices of our HBCU students in partnership with the HBCU Emergency Management Workforce Consortium.

What we Believe

Historical Black College and Universities students and alumni are best positioned to serve as trusted messengers and advocates not only to their peers, but also close and extended family members about how to safeguard their health, including mental health, against COVID-19. For those community members still wondering if they should get vaccinated, the conversation they have with HBCU students, alumni or supporters could be the deciding factor. HBCU-CARD acknowledges the concerns of our friends, family, colleagues and loved ones and work to respond with information and empathy.

Our Goal

The goal of HBCU-CARD is to increase the number of students, alumni, and supporters of Historical Black College and Universities campuses and surrounding communities taking action to increase public confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines while reinforcing basic prevention measures such as mask wearing and social distancing.

For more information about the contributions of HBCUs please visit the [White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#)

Learn more about HBCU-CARD at: <https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php>

Three Ways to Engage in Social Media

Share Your Story!

Our partners at Made to Save created an easy-to-use way to record and share a video <https://madetosave.soapboxx.us/campaign/hbcusagainstcovid19>



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Made to Save website with the logo on the left, and links for "WATCH ALL VIDEOS", "OUR CAMPAIGNS", and a "RECORD YOUR VIDEO" button. Below the navigation is the main heading "HBCU-CARD: Let's Talk About Getting COVID-19 Vaccinated". Underneath are three identical video recording prompts, each featuring an illustration of people holding a megaphone. Each prompt includes a "RECORD YOUR VIDEO NOW" button and a specific question:

- RECORD YOUR VIDEO NOW**
What are you most looking forward to doing next semester?
- RECORD YOUR VIDEO NOW**
What has kept you resilient this semester?
- RECORD YOUR VIDEO NOW**
Why did you choose to get vaccinated?

You can also RSVP for a free upcoming [Made to Save training](#):

Post on Social Media using #HBCUsAgainstCOVID





(Sample graphics and text on page 4)


- Go to Graphics and Post to Use
- [Downloadable Graphics \(High Fidelity Graphics Via Google Drive\)](#)
- [Graphic Templates](#)





Share Resources from Trusted Partners and fellow HBCUs using #HBCUsAgainstCOVID


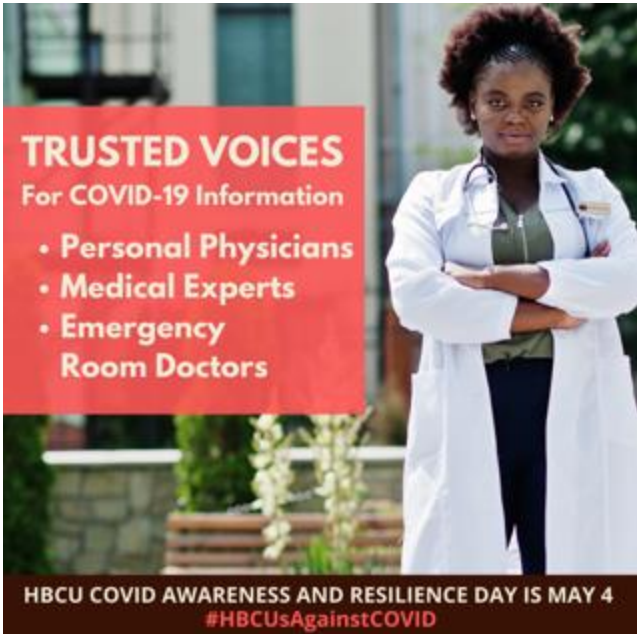
HBCU-CARD Social Media Messaging (Graphic + Text)

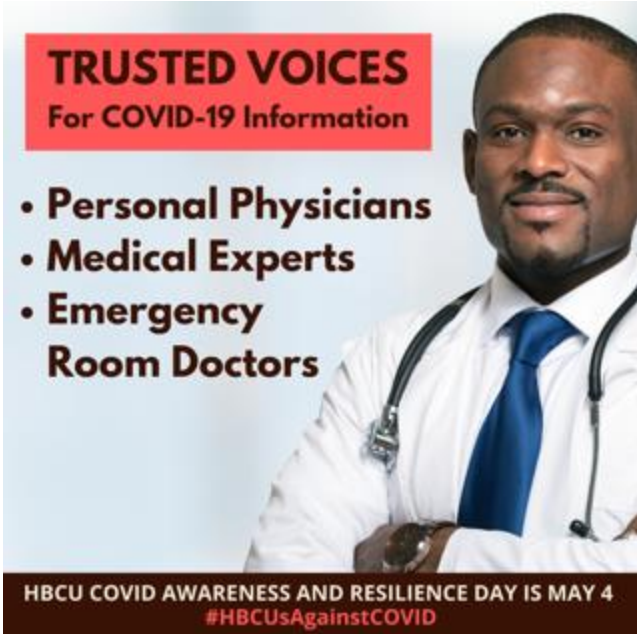

Please feel free to modify this messaging to make it your own!


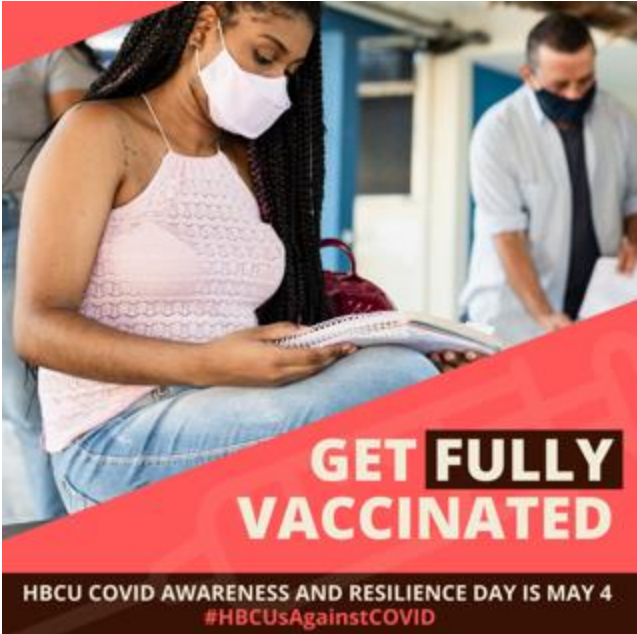
Graphic	Sample Language
	<p>  Have a question about the virus or vaccines? Ask an expert. The most trusted voices when it comes to information about COVID-19 are personal physicians, medical experts, and emergency room doctors, followed by public health officials.</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
	<p>HBCU students are resilient. On May 4th we will celebrate their successes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more.</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>



Graphic	Sample Language
 <p>WE ARE RESILIENT</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>Helping yourself = Helping others ♡ Do not put off COVID-19 treatment or vaccinations. Get the appointment you need scheduled today and encourage your friends and families to do the same. Learn more about #HBCUDAY on May 4th. 31 https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
 <p>MAKE A COVID-19 APPOINTMENT</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>If it's your turn to get the first or second dose of the vaccine, get on it! Get your vaccine appointments on the books today! Learn more about HBCU CARD Day on May 4th 31 https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>



Graphic	Sample Language
 <p>POST-VACCINE SYMPTOMS</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>  You may have symptoms like a fever after you get a vaccine. This is normal and a sign that your immune system is learning how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
 <p>MAKE A COVID-19 APPOINTMENT</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>Just as you made a plan to vote, make a plan to get your vaccinations. If you're not yet eligible, make a plan to check your state's qualifications regularly! HBCU CARD Day on May 4th is about educating, testing, and vaccinating our community. Learn more 31</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>



Graphic	Sample Language
 <p>WE ARE RESILIENT</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>We are resilient.</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
 <p>TRUSTED VOICES For COVID-19 Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Physicians• Medical Experts• Emergency Room Doctors <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. The internet can be filled with dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <p>Learn more about finding credible, fact-based vaccine information: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/evalwebs.htm</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>

Graphic	Sample Language
 <p>TRUSTED VOICES For COVID-19 Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Physicians• Medical Experts• Emergency Room Doctors <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. The internet can be filled with dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <p>Learn more about finding credible, fact-based vaccine information: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/gen/evalwebs.htm</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
 <p>TAKE THE PLEDGE</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>On May 4th, we will honor HBCU students for their incredible resilience during the pandemic. Learn more. 31 https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>

Graphic	Sample Language
 <p>MAKE A PLAN TO GET VACCINATED</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>Did you know that side effects after getting a #COVID19 vaccine are normal signs your body is building protection? If you have side effects, they usually go away in a few days. Learn more: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
 <p>GET FULLY VACCINATED</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>Whether you have a passion for helping people or just CAN'T WAIT to go to a concert again, one of the best things you can do is plan a Community Appointment Sign-Up Event to encourage your friends, family, and others to take the first steps toward getting vaccinated!</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>

Graphic	Sample Language
 <p>PLAN AN ON-CAMPUS TESTING EVENT</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>Whether you have a passion for helping people or just CAN'T WAIT to go to a concert again, one of the best things you can do is plan a Community Appointment Sign-Up Event to encourage your friends, family, and others to take the first steps toward getting vaccinated!</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
 <p>HOST A VIRTUAL COVID Q&A</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>It's easy to get sucked into misinformation about the pandemic. It's as easy as it is dangerous. Help steer your community members away from harmful misconceptions by connecting them with credible, trusted medical professionals through a Virtual Q&A.</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>

Graphic	Sample Language
 <p>LET'S RE-COMMIT TO THE GUIDELINES</p> <p>Mask up. Social distance. Get vaccinated. #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>You can have an incredible summer while protecting yourself and your community from COVID-19. (Re)commit to CDC guidelines while you're soaking up the sun, and out with friends. 🌞</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
 <p>HOST A COVID VACCINE SIGN-UP EVENT</p> <p>HBCU COVID AWARENESS AND RESILIENCE DAY IS MAY 4 #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>	<p>These days, assisting with a vaccination or testing event is right up there with fighting crime in a cape and saving kittens from trees. 🦸🏾 Be your community's hero!</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>

Graphic	Sample Language
	<p>Throughout the pandemic, HBCU students have shown incredible resilience. Join us on May 4th to honor and celebrate them—as we work to spread awareness on the ongoing effects of the pandemic.</p> <p>https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>
	<p>Did you know that safety is a top priority for #COVID19 vaccines? All vaccines must meet strict standards for safety before they can be used in the U.S. Get the facts: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis #HBCUsAgainstCOVID</p>

HBCU-CARD Social Media Messaging (Text Only)

Please feel free to modify this messaging to make it your own!

Post 1

HBCU students are resilient. On May 4th we will celebrate their successes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more.

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 2

On May 4th, we will honor HBCU students for their incredible resilience during the pandemic.

Learn more. [31 https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php](https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php) #HBCUsAgainstCOVID



Post 3

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. The internet can be filled with dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines.

Learn more about finding credible, fact-based vaccine information:



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/evalwebs.htm> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 4

  Have a question about the virus or vaccines? Ask an expert. The most trusted voices when it comes to information about COVID-19 are personal physicians, medical experts, and emergency room doctors, followed by public health officials.

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 5

  You may have symptoms like a fever after you get a vaccine. This is normal and a sign that your immune system is learning how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 6

You can have an incredible summer while protecting yourself and your community from COVID-19. (Re)commit to CDC guidelines while you're soaking up the sun, and out with friends. 🌟

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 7

Just as you made a plan to vote, make a plan to get your vaccinations. If you're not yet eligible, make a plan to check your state's qualifications regularly! HBCU CARD Day on May 4th is about educating, testing, and vaccinating our community. Learn more [\[31\]](https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php) <https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 8

If it's your turn to get the first or second dose of the vaccine, get on it! Get your vaccine appointments on the books today! Learn more about HBCU CARD Day on May 4th [\[31\]](https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php) <https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 9

Helping yourself = Helping others ❤️ Do not put off COVID-19 treatment or vaccinations. Get the appointment you need scheduled today and encourage your friends and families to do the same. Learn more about #HBCUDAY on May 4th. [\[31\]](https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php) <https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 10

Whether you have a passion for helping people or just CAN'T WAIT to go to a concert again, one of the best things you can do is plan a Community Appointment Sign-Up Event to encourage your friends, family, and others to take the first steps toward getting vaccinated! <https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 11

These days, assisting with a vaccination or testing event is right up there with fighting crime in a cape and saving kittens from trees. 🦸 Be your community's hero! <https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 12

It's easy to get sucked into misinformation about the pandemic. It's as easy as it is dangerous. Help steer your community members away from harmful misconceptions by connecting them with credible, trusted medical professionals through a Virtual Q&A.

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 13

Ways to activate your community:

- Promote or Host a Community Appointment Sign-Up Event

#HBCUsAgainstCOVID

- Social Media Platform Engagement
- Promote or Host a “Community Testing Day”
- Promote or Host a Virtual Q&A Sessions with Trusted, Culturally Competent Medical Personnel

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 14

We are resilient.

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Post 15

Throughout the pandemic, HBCU students have shown incredible resilience. Join us on May 4th to honor and celebrate them—as we work to spread awareness on the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

<https://www.huttc.org/hbcu-emc/hbcu-card.php> #HBCUsAgainstCOVID

Resources from Trusted Partners

National Minority Quality Forum: The National Minority Quality Forum was founded in 1998 to address the critical need for strengthening national and local efforts to use evidence-based, data-driven initiatives to guide programs to eliminate the disproportionate burden of premature death and preventable illness for racial and ethnic minorities and other special populations. <https://www.nmqf.org>

Made to Save: A national education and grassroots campaign working to save lives by increasing access to the COVID-19 vaccines. <https://madetosave.org/resources/>

COVID-19 Community Corps: The U.S. Health and Human Services COVID-19 public education campaign is a national initiative to increase public confidence in and uptake of COVID-19 vaccines while reinforcing basic prevention measures such as mask wearing and social distancing. <https://wecandothishhs.gov/resources>

The Black Coalition Against COVID: The Black Coalition Against COVID-19 was created for the purpose of organizing D.C.'s multi-dimensional and broadly inclusive cohort of community leaders and advocates in an effort to urgently mobilize and coordinate all available community assets in complementary and collaborative support of D.C. Governments' efforts, and especially those of D.C Health. <https://blackcoalitionagainstcovid.org/resources/>

Healthcare Ready: Healthcare Ready (formerly Rx Response) helps to strengthen healthcare supply chains through collaboration with public health and private sectors by addressing pressing issues before, during, and after disasters. <https://healthcareready.org/resources/>

Institute of Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management: The Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM) is a global non-profit established to facilitate change by integrating equity into all aspects of emergency management.: <https://i-diem.org/category/research-resources/>

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. <https://naacp.org/coronavirus/>

Choose Healthy Life: One of the key goals for Choose Healthy Life is to make COVID-19 testing more accessible for underserved communities and working with the Black church we plan to make that happen. <https://www.choosehealthylife.org/resources>

Vacunata Te Hoy: A national Health and Safety Initiative is brought by The League of United Latin American Citizens to create impact, transforming communities. <https://vacunatehoy.org>

Key Things to Know About COVID-19

Source: U.S. Health and Human Service COVID-19 public education campaign
<https://wecandothishhs.gov/about>

COVID-19 vaccines are safe

All authorized COVID-19 vaccines meet FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines will continue undergoing the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history to make sure that they are safe.

COVID-19 vaccines cannot make you sick with COVID-19

None of the vaccines being used or tested in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that they cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines are effective

Studies showed that COVID-19 vaccines were effective at keeping people from getting COVID-19 and from getting seriously ill even if they got COVID-19.

COVID-19 virus variants and vaccines

Scientists are studying different forms, or variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 to see if the vaccines will work against them. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines authorized and recommended for use in the United States offer protection against most variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including illness caused by the new variants. CDC will continue to monitor the impact these new variants may have on how well the vaccines work.

COVID-19 vaccines are here

The vaccines are available now and as supply increases, more people will be able to receive a vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccines are free

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States

Wear a mask after getting the vaccine

After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more. We're still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19.

If you've been fully vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

You do need to wear a mask in public places, when visiting people from multiple households, or when around anyone with an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)

Source: U.S. Health and Human Service COVID-19 public education campaign
<https://wecandothishhs.gov/about>

Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19

Source: U.S. Health and Human Service COVID-19 public education campaign
<https://wecandothishhs.gov/about>

VACCINE SAFETY

Why should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

COVID-19 can cause serious illness or even death. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you, putting their lives at risk. A COVID-19 vaccine greatly reduces the risk that you will develop COVID-19. In clinical trials, COVID-19 vaccines have been highly effective at preventing severe cases of COVID-19 that require hospital care or cause death.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes! COVID-19 vaccines being used in the United States meet FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the United States since December 14, 2020, and all COVID vaccines being used here will continue to be monitored for safety.

How can COVID-19 vaccines be safe since they were developed so fast?

Safe COVID vaccines were developed quickly through use of a century of vaccine experience; technology that was new to vaccines but had been studied for two decades; a prototype coronavirus vaccine already in development at NIH; and tens of thousands of volunteers for clinical trials that enabled rapid accumulation of data on safety and effectiveness. Simultaneous vaccine production and analysis of testing data also allowed vaccines to be shipped within days of FDA authorization.

Will the shot hurt or make me sick?

No. Some people might get sore muscles, feel tired, or have mild fever after getting the vaccine, but most people report only a sore arm where they got the shot. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. For most people, these side effects will go away on their own in a few days. If you have any concerns, call your doctor or nurse.

Why are people having allergic reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine?

A few people have had allergic reactions called anaphylaxis after getting a COVID-19 vaccine but were treated and have recovered. Your doctor can help you decide if it is safe for you to be vaccinated.

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

You cannot get COVID-19 from any of the COVID-19 vaccines in use or being tested in the United States because none of them contains the live virus that causes the disease.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

Yes. People who want to get pregnant in the future can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Experts believe that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to a person trying to become pregnant in the short or long term.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for people who are pregnant?

Yes. If you are pregnant, you may choose to be vaccinated when it's available to you. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problem with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta.

People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them. There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. There is no routine recommendation for taking a pregnancy test before you get a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with a healthcare provider may help you make an informed decision.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for people with certain underlying medical conditions?

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to most people with underlying medical conditions once vaccine is available to them. If you have questions about getting COVID-19 vaccine, you should talk to your healthcare providers for advice. Inform your vaccination provider about all your allergies and health conditions.

VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS

How do COVID-19 vaccines work?

Vaccines train our immune system to recognize the COVID virus and make cells to fight the virus. With vaccines, we can build immunity to a disease without getting the disease.

How long do COVID-19 vaccines last?

We don't know right now how long COVID-19 vaccines protect people, but clinical trials are investigating this. What we do know is that among people who were vaccinated in clinical trials of the vaccines now available, the vaccines were highly effective at preventing severe cases of COVID that required hospital care or caused death. In these trials, vaccines were up to 94% effective in protecting volunteers from getting COVID-19 at all compared to people who received a placebo.

Do I need to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I've already had COVID-19?

Yes. Scientists do not yet know how long natural antibodies in people who have had COVID-19 will protect them from being re-infected.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine prevent me from infecting others?

COVID-19 vaccines reduce the likelihood that you will develop and be able to spread COVID-19. A growing body of evidence shows that the risk of vaccinated people getting and spreading the virus to others is low, but ongoing studies are further analyzing this question.

Do the vaccines work on the new COVID variants?

Scientists continue to study different forms, or variants, of the virus that causes COVID-19 to see if the vaccines will work against them. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines authorized and recommended for use in the United States offer protection against most variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including illness caused by the new variants. CDC will continue to monitor the impact these new variants may have on how well the vaccines work.