

# Talking Points: COVID-19 Vaccine

**These may be helpful in talking with clients, staff, patients, and others who may have questions or concerns about the vaccine.**

- **The vaccines are safe and effective.** The available vaccines are all safe and effective in preventing severe illness and death. One vaccine is not clearly better than the other. The best vaccine is the one you can get.
- **The vaccines are free.** The federal government covers the cost of the vaccine.
- **You may need two doses.** Depending on which vaccine you receive, you may get a single dose or two doses, three to four weeks apart.
- **You may feel side effects.** Like other routine vaccines, you may get a sore arm, fever, headaches, or feel tired after getting vaccinated. These are signs that the vaccine is working.
- **You CANNOT catch COVID-19 from the vaccine.** It is not possible because it does not contain a live virus.
- **Everyone will get a vaccine, but people at highest risk get it first.** Everyone will be able to get vaccinated when we have enough doses. It is hard to wait and be patient, but the state will let us know when people can expect to get the vaccine. Here is a website with the latest information on when and where you can get it: [www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine).
- **Some people should not get the vaccine.** Children under 16 cannot yet receive a vaccine. You should tell your doctor or vaccine provider if you have a fever, have a history of severe allergic reactions, have a bleeding disorder or take blood thinners, have immunity problems, or are pregnant. You can get the vaccine even if you have had COVID.
- **The vaccine DOES NOT change your DNA, contain egg protein, make women infertile, or contain a microchip.** These are false stories being spread to scare people.
- **You still need to stay safe after the vaccine.** It is important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic. After you get the vaccine, you can gather in small groups without masks or physical distancing. But if you are with people who have not had the vaccine, you still need to wear your mask, stay six feet apart, and wash your hands often.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VACCINE AT:

Greater Lowell Health Alliance: [greaterlowellhealthalliance.org/covid-19](http://greaterlowellhealthalliance.org/covid-19)

Lowell Community Health Center: [lhealth.org/patients/covid-19-updates](http://lhealth.org/patients/covid-19-updates)

CDC: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html)

MA DPH: [mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information# covid-19-vaccine-](http://mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information# covid-19-vaccine-)

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\*Source: CDC | Rev. 3/10/21