



Volunteer Handbook

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Introduction

Hello Volunteer,

Thank you for volunteering with Immunize Colorado. With your help, Immunize Colorado and community partners will provide a safer community through your education and outreach. In some cases, if you are a licensed immunizing provider or a health professional student being supervised by a licensed immunizing provider, you may also be administering free vaccine.

The purpose of this Volunteer Handbook is to provide you with volunteer information, including an overview of Immunize Colorado general guidelines and policies, volunteer responsibilities and roles, a COVID-19 vaccine factsheet and contact information for questions or further information. Also, please remember that all volunteers **must** sign the Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability form and return it to Immunize Colorado at icoffice@childrenscolorado.org **before** volunteering. Please find the Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability form included alongside this handbook.

Immunize Colorado so appreciates your dedication of time and capacity to help support this effort to help prevent and control the spread of vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Wasserman, MSPH
Executive Director, Immunize Colorado

Mission

As a statewide 501(c)3 nonprofit, [Immunize Colorado](#) (formerly the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition) works to protect Colorado families, schools and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. Created in 1991, Immunize Colorado achieves our mission through six core programmatic areas: coalition building, public policy, community outreach and awareness, provider education, partnerships to provide free and low-cost vaccines, and data translation and action.

Introduction

Immunize Colorado strives to recognize volunteers who are devoted to protecting the public health of Colorado through vaccines. With the Volunteer Manual, Immunize Colorado's primary focus is to provide volunteers who are dedicated to promoting health through public outreach with the best volunteering experience possible. This handbook is to provide you with volunteer information, including an overview of Immunize Colorado general guidelines and policies, volunteer responsibilities and roles, a COVID-19 vaccine factsheet and contact information for questions or further information and resources. Immunize Colorado appreciates those who have helped and continue to make Colorado the healthiest it can be!

Volunteer Guidelines and Policies

Overview

The purpose of these policies and engagement guidelines is to provide overall guidance and direction to both Immunize Colorado staff and volunteers. These policies are intended for internal management guidance only, and do not constitute, either implicitly or explicitly, a personnel agreement. The program reserves the right at any time to change the policy. The Executive Director or a designated representative of Immunize Colorado is the only person with the ability to grant changes to or make exceptions from these policies.

Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability Form

Immunize Colorado requires volunteers to sign and return a Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability **prior to volunteering**. Please find the Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability form included alongside this handbook. All volunteers **must** sign the Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability form and return it to Immunize Colorado at icoffice@childrenscolorado.org **before** volunteering.

Dress Code

Immunize Colorado staff will provide you with a free t-shirt at the event. Please plan on wearing the t-shirt. Also, as representatives of the program, volunteers are responsible for presenting a professional image to the community. Volunteers are expected to dress appropriately for the conditions and performance of their duties.

Representing Immunize Colorado

While volunteering with Immunize Colorado, volunteers must take into consideration the magnitude of their actions and comments while working alongside Immunize Colorado's community partners and other participating organizations. Although the volunteer may be an expert in a given field, they are not in any position to give advice to or impose their personal opinions onto the community members present at these events. Volunteers may not speak with the press unless previously authorized by Immunize Colorado's Executive Director. Volunteers are required to act as representatives of Immunize Colorado and will not perform activities outside of the scope of their assigned volunteer duties.

Discrimination

It is the policy and commitment of Immunize Colorado to not discriminate based on race, color, sex and/or gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, religion, and/or familial status in admission of its volunteers or its programs and

services. All volunteers and employees are accountable to this notion and failure to comply with this policy may result in termination from the program.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Immunize Colorado is committed to providing volunteers with a safe, productive, and enjoyable environment and experience while volunteering with the organization. Immunize Colorado will not tolerate any form of sexual harassment among its employees and volunteers and encourages volunteers to bring any incident of sexual harassment to the immediate attention of Immunize Colorado Executive Director or proper authority.

Confidentiality

Volunteers are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of all proprietary and/or privileged information to which they are exposed while serving as a volunteer, whether this information involves a staff member, volunteer, populations served, or overall program business. The Code of Conduct includes a confidentiality statement barring the sharing or disclosing of this information for any unauthorized purposes, including personal benefit.

Working with Diverse Populations

Volunteers must also show equal respect to all populations served regardless of differences. If a volunteer feels uncomfortable with a certain situation or client, they must immediately notify the Volunteer Coordinator and/or staff member in charge.

Communication

If any questions arise, please contact **stephanie.wasserman@childrenscolorado.org**. If there are any urgent questions that arise during the event or if you need to get in contact with an Immunize Colorado staff member, call or **303.917.8708**.

Documentation and Hour Tracking

Immunize Colorado will provide a spreadsheet for you to track your outreach efforts. At the end of your volunteer shift please provide the spreadsheet to Immunize Colorado staff or email it to icoffice@childrenscolorado.org. If a volunteer needs documentation supporting the hours during which they volunteered, they can email icoffice@childrenscolorado.org with their name, the location where they volunteered, and the number of hours volunteered. Immunize Colorado will validate the document and return it to the volunteer.

Volunteer Involvement within Immunize Colorado

Immunize Colorado is driven by volunteers who are committed to creating healthy communities across Colorado protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Due to their level of involvement within the organization, Immunize Colorado volunteers maintain the same accountability as its staff. The Immunize Colorado staff and volunteers come together to create three teams. See volunteer position descriptions for full details of responsibilities/duties of each team, but duties may include:

Position Description/Duties -

- *Clinical duties for immunization clinics if you are a fully licensed provider or a student who has a licensed preceptor on-site include prepping immunizations, providing immunizations, or observing patients after receiving any vaccines.*
- *Non-clinical duties for immunization clinics may include filling out paperwork for those receiving the vaccine, line management, traffic control, and/or any other duties pertaining to the clinic flow.*
- *Office tasks may include (but not limited to) organizing and preparing appropriate outreach materials for community events or partners, fulfilling palm card orders, completing office tasks, or other jobs as assigned by Immunize Colorado.*
- *Education duties include tabling events and event set up and educating and empowering the public at outreach events about the importance of vaccines.*

1. Entry: Immunization Advocate -

This position is the introduction to the Immunize Colorado volunteer program. All volunteers, no matter their skillset, will begin here before proceeding to one of the more advanced volunteer tiers.

Members in this category must complete -

- Total of 20 hours of volunteering at a clinical volunteer event, education volunteer event or Immunize Colorado office task prior to moving up to an 'Intermediate Volunteer'

2. Intermediate: Immunization Champion -

Once a volunteer has completed the above requirements, they may proceed to the 'Intermediate' level of the volunteer program. The goal of this level is to train volunteers on vaccine education information, so they are able to table at events.

Members in this category must complete -

- Total of additional 40 hours of volunteering prior to moving up to an 'Volunteer Leader'
- Must express desire to want to want to lead events to the

3. Advanced: Volunteer Leader -

After a volunteer has completed the requirements of an 'Intermediate Volunteer' they may proceed to the final team of the volunteer program, Volunteer Leader. Members of this team have a high level of responsibility, are ongoing committed members of Immunize Colorado's volunteer team, and are able to lead and train other volunteers!

Members in this category must complete -

- To maintain this level, volunteers must attend 10 events or 60 hours per year



Team Immunization Advocate

POSITION: Team Immunization Advocate

REPORTS TO: Kayla Knock

TYPE OF POSITION: Volunteer (Episodic and/or One-Time)

Start Date: _____

Average Hours per Month: 5

Length of Commitment: One-time volunteer, or episodic volunteering leading to long-term volunteering

LOCATION: Immunize Colorado

13100 East Colfax Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011

Locations for outreach events and/or meetings will vary and be specified when volunteer opportunities are announced

MISSION OBJECTIVE: Immunize Colorado is widely recognized as Colorado's trusted resource for immunization clinics and community health for all ages by fostering education and statewide collaboration.

Summary/General Description of Responsibilities:

Team Immunization Advocate is the introduction group of our volunteer program. All volunteer interests and one-time volunteers are added to this group. Volunteers of Team Immunization Advocate will volunteer at a minimum of 3 volunteer event, 3 outreach event, or complete 3 volunteer tasks. Volunteer responsibilities may include, but not limited to:

- Clinical duties for immunization clinics if you are a fully licensed provider or a student who has a licensed preceptor on-site include prepping immunizations, providing immunizations, or observing patients after receiving any vaccines.
- Non-clinical duties for immunization clinics may include filling out paperwork for those receiving the vaccine, line management, traffic control, and/or any other duties pertaining to the clinic flow.
- Office tasks may include (but not limited to) organizing and preparing appropriate outreach materials for community events or partners, fulfilling palm card orders, completing office tasks, or other jobs as assigned by Immunize Colorado.
- Education duties include tabling events and event set up and educating and empowering the public at outreach events about the importance of vaccines.

Specific Responsibilities:

Attend 3 Team Events/Complete 3 Volunteer Tasks totaling 20 hours of volunteering prior to moving up to an intermediate volunteer on 'Team Immunization Champion.'

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- No prior knowledge, skills, or abilities are required to volunteer with Team Advocate.

Support Provided:

- Volunteer Handbook – Policies and Procedures
- Training/Instructions provided by Immunize Colorado staff member

Authorities and Limitations of Authority:

- Team IZ champion is responsible for self-reporting event attendance/volunteer task completion, logging in all volunteer hours, and when member is ready/eligible to proceed to next tier of Volunteer Program.
 - Logging hours is completed through Volgistics that will be sent to each volunteer to create a personalized account
 - Once a volunteer completes all hours, it is their responsibility to report this back to Immunize Colorado's volunteer manager for information on becoming a 'Volunteer Leader'

Volunteer Agreement -

I understand the responsibilities and qualifications of this position, and agree to fulfill them to the best of my ability

Volunteer Signature

Date

Printed Volunteer Name

Volunteer Manager

Signature

Date



Team Immunization Champion

POSITION: Team Immunization Champion

REPORTS TO: Kayla Knock

TYPE OF POSITION: Volunteer (Ongoing)

Start Date: _____

Average Hours per month: 5-10

Length of Commitment: Ongoing

LOCATION: Immunize Colorado

13100 East Colfax Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011

Locations for outreach events and/or meetings will vary and be specified when volunteer opportunities are announced

MISSION OBJECTIVE: Immunize Colorado is widely recognized as Colorado's trusted resource for immunization clinics and community health for all ages by fostering education and statewide coalition.

Summary/General Description of Responsibilities:

Team Immunization Champion is the second tier of our volunteer program and membership is obtained by completing the requirements of Team Advocate. Team Champion members may choose to volunteer with certain specialties, along with duties as described in Team Advocate, such as (but not limited to):

- Clinical duties for immunization clinics if you are a fully licensed provider or a student who has a licensed preceptor on-site include prepping immunizations, providing immunizations, or observing patients after receiving any vaccines.
- Non-clinical duties for immunization clinics may include filling out paperwork for those receiving the vaccine, line management, traffic control, and/or any other duties pertaining to the clinic flow.
- Office tasks may include (but not limited to) organizing and preparing appropriate outreach materials for community events or partners, fulfilling palm card orders, completing office tasks, or other jobs as assigned by Immunize Colorado.
- Education duties include tabling events and event set up and educating and empowering the public at outreach events about the importance of vaccines.

Specific Responsibilities:

- In Team IZ Champion, one must complete the following to move up to the volunteer leadership team:
 - Attend 6 events/Complete 6 Volunteer Tasks totaling additional 40 hours of volunteering prior to moving up to an 'Volunteer Leader.'
 - Volunteer hours would also include attendance of Immunize Colorado Monthly Coalition Meetings, monthly Professional Development Trainings, attending monthly Colorado's various webinars, town-halls, and summits.

Authorities and Limitations of Authority:

- Team IZ champion is responsible for self-reporting event attendance/volunteer task completion, logging in all volunteer hours, and when member is ready/eligible to proceed to next tier of Volunteer Program.
 - Logging hours is completed through Volgistics that will be sent to each volunteer to create a personalized account
 - Once a volunteer completes all hours, it is their responsibility to report this back to Immunize Colorado's volunteer manager for information on becoming a 'Volunteer Leader'

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Previous knowledge and skills obtained in Team Advocate:
 - Knowledge of routine immunizations
 - Professional Development
 - Poverty, race/ethnicity, cultural sensitivity training

Support Provided:

- Volunteer Handbook – Policies and Procedures
- Training/Instructions provided by Immunize Colorado staff member
- Professional Development will be conducted by Immunize Colorado staff member

Volunteer Agreement -

I understand the responsibilities and qualifications of this position, and agree to fulfill them to the best of my ability.

Volunteer Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Volunteer Name _____

Volunteer Manager _____ Signature _____ Date _____



Team Leadership Volunteer Position

POSITION: Team Leadership Volunteer

REPORTS TO: Kayla Knock

TYPE OF POSITION: Volunteer (Ongoing)

Start Date: _____ **End Date (if applicable):** _____

Average Hours: 5- 10

Length of Commitment: Ongoing (OR ADD SPECIFIC HOURS)

LOCATION: Immunize Colorado

13123 East 16th Avenue, Box 281 Aurora, CO 80045

Locations for Advocate events and/or meetings will vary and be specified when volunteer opportunities are announced

MISSION OBJECTIVE: Immunize Colorado is widely recognized as Colorado's trusted resource for immunization clinics and community health for all ages by fostering education and statewide coalition.

Summary/General Description of Responsibilities:

Team Leadership is the top tier of our volunteer program and membership is obtained by successfully completing the requirements of Team Advocate and Team Champion. Members of this team have a high level of responsibility, are ongoing committed members of Immunize Colorado's volunteer team, and make a great impact in our community! Team Leadership members may choose to volunteer with responsibilities as described in Team Advocate and Team Champion, as well as be able to lead and help coordinate immunization opportunities.

- Clinical duties for immunization clinics if you are a fully licensed provider or a student who has a licensed preceptor on-site include prepping immunizations, providing immunizations, or observing patients after receiving any vaccines.
- Non-clinical duties for immunization clinics may include filling out paperwork for those receiving the vaccine, line management, traffic control, and/or any other duties pertaining to the clinic flow.
- Office tasks may include (but not limited to) organizing and preparing appropriate outreach materials for community events or partners, fulfilling palm card orders, completing office tasks, or other jobs as assigned by Immunize Colorado.
- Education duties include tabling events and event set up and educating and empowering the public at outreach events about the importance of vaccines.

Specific Responsibilities:

- In Team Leadership, one must complete the following to move up a team:
 - Attend 8 Team Events/Complete 8 Volunteer Tasks, to maintain this level, volunteers must volunteer at least 60 hours per year.

- Complete Professional Development and leadership training provided by Immunize Colorado staff.
 - Current vaccine news
 - Resume and/or cover letter writing skills, networking, and public speaking; professional dressing
 - Cultural competence and sensitivity, exposure to vulnerable populations, and communicate through oral and written formats to address public health topics
 - Certifications available to volunteers within their field
 - Any relevant topics of interest
 - Leadership professional training provided by Immunize Colorado
- Volunteer hours would also include attendance of Immunize Colorado Monthly Coalition Meetings, monthly Professional Development Trainings, attending monthly Colorado's various webinars, town-halls, and summits.

Authorities and Limitations of Authority:

- Team Leadership is responsible for self-reporting event attendance/volunteer task completion, logging in all volunteer hours.
 - Logging hours is completed through Volgistics that will be sent to each volunteer to create a personalized account.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Previous knowledge and skills obtained in Team Advocate & Team Champion:
 - Knowledge of routine immunizations
 - Professional Development
 - Poverty, race/ethnicity, cultural sensitivity training
 - HIPPA/patient record training
 - Handling sensitive information/questions (when forecasting)

Support Provided:

- Volunteer Handbook – Policies and Procedures
- Training/Instructions provided by Immunize Colorado staff member
- Professional Development will be offered by Immunize Colorado staff member

Volunteer Agreement -

I understand the responsibilities and qualifications of this position, and agree to fulfill them to the best of my ability.

Volunteer Signature

Date

Printed Volunteer Name

Volunteer Manager

Signature

Date



Frequently Asked Questions w/ Responses

****Adapted from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Q: Is there a cost to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or a requirement of healthcare insurance?

A: As per the federal government, vaccine providers cannot charge you any fees or copays for the vaccine, the vaccine is completely free of charge. Vaccine providers cannot deny vaccination to anyone who cannot present healthcare insurance or is out of network.

Q: What side effects can I expect to see after receiving my vaccine?

A: Some common side effects include pain, redness and swelling in the arm where you received the injection. Additionally, you may experience headache, fatigue, chills, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea. These symptoms do not indicate that you have been infected with COVID-19, but rather, these are all signs that your body is building immunity against COVID-19. You can expect these side effects to go away within a few days.

Q: When can I expect to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 after receiving my vaccine?

After vaccination it will take 2 weeks to build immunity against COVID-19. You are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your second dose of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna and Pfizer) or 2 weeks after your one-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson).

Q: If the Johnson & Johnson (Jassen) vaccine deployment was paused for safety reasons, why should it be required? (*iterations = J&J isn't safe; you shouldn't require a vaccine that that isn't safe*)

A: The pausing of the J&J vaccine shows that the vaccine monitoring safety systems are working! They are so sensitive, that they were able to pick up an incredibly rare potential side

effect which occurred in less than 2 in a million people. Comparatively, the risk of developing blood clots from COVID-19 illness is 165,000 per million cases. The pause shows that CDC and FDA take vaccine safety very seriously and, out of an abundance of caution, paused vaccine distribution to ensure healthcare providers and patients have the information they need to make an informed choice about the available vaccines. Experts closely examined all of the data and determined that the vaccine's benefits still far outweigh the risk of a very rare side effect like this.

A: I defer to the experts that are here to testify today, but to me, the pause of the J&J vaccine shows that our health agencies are prioritizing and very closely monitoring vaccine safety. The pause does not mean that the vaccine is inherently unsafe, but rather that our safety systems to monitor vaccination post-administration are working. There are also other options for COVID-19 vaccination in the United States.

Q: Why should my workplace be able to mandate a medical procedure, such as COVID-19 vaccination? (*Iterations = job shouldn't be limited by my medical procedures; discrimination; HIPAA violation; forcing a medical procedure; where there is risk, there should be choice*)

- Employers, businesses, healthcare institutions, etc. have a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment. Sometimes doing so requires individual actions such as wearing shoes, wearing a mask or being vaccinated.
- Vaccines are unlike many other medical interventions in that they provide a benefit not only to those who receive them, but also those the vaccinated individual interacts with.
- Employees, guests, clients, etc. have the right to access businesses that limit dangerous exposures, such as secondhand smoke and infectious diseases.

Q: Some people get COVID after being vaccinated. If this is the case, it shouldn't be required.

- Like all vaccines and many medications, the vaccines for COVID-19 are not 100% effective. A small proportion of the vaccinated population will not develop protection against COVID-19 following vaccination. This is why it is so important for the vast majority of the population to be vaccinated - to protect those who are not protected.
- Cases of COVID-19 following complete vaccination are rare. In cases where infection does happen post-vaccination, symptoms are less severe and chances of severe outcomes, including hospitalization and death are much lower.

Q: If the vaccine works, why do vaccinated people care if I'm vaccinated or not?

- The fact is that no vaccines are 100% effective at preventing illness. There will be a small percentage of people who are fully vaccinated against COVID who still get sick,

are hospitalized, or die from COVID-19. This is one of the reasons why “community immunity” (also known as “herd immunity”) is so important.

- Achieving a high enough level of vaccination will prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect those who either haven’t been vaccinated yet or cannot be vaccinated due to their age or certain medical conditions.

Q: Many people have already had COVID-19. They shouldn’t need to be vaccinated.

(iteration = should I be vaccinated if I’ve had COVID-19?)

- Individuals should be vaccinated even if they’ve already had COVID-19.
- Public health experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again.
- Experts are still learning more about how long COVID vaccines protect against COVID-19 in real-world conditions. The CDC and its partners will keep the public informed as they learn more.

Q: Why would I want to get a vaccine instead of just getting the natural immunity that comes from getting the disease? Isn’t that better?

- The benefit of COVID vaccines is that you get protection from the COVID-19 disease without having to risk the serious, and sometimes deadly, consequences of getting very sick with a COVID infection.
- The risk of complications from COVID-19 disease is much greater than the risk of adverse events following vaccination.

Q: How do we know COVID-19 vaccines are safe during pregnancy?

- Even though pregnant women were not in the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, the CDC and the FDA have a number of safety monitoring systems in place to closely monitor the safety of pregnant women who choose to get vaccinated (and the safety of their babies).
- Early data from these systems did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated or for their babies. Most of the pregnancies reported in these systems are ongoing, so more follow-up data are needed for people vaccinated just before or early in pregnancy. CDC and FDA will continue to follow people vaccinated during all trimesters of pregnancy to understand COVID vaccination effects on pregnancy and babies.

Q: Do COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility?

- There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. There is also no evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of any FDA-authorized vaccine.

Q: Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The FDA has authorized emergency use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents 12 years and older. At this time, there are no COVID-19 vaccines approved for emergency use in children under 12 years old in the U.S.
- In the near future, FDA is going to review data from Pfizer's COVID vaccine clinical trials and will consider whether to authorize the vaccine for children as young as 2 years old. A number of other vaccine makers are currently testing COVID-19 vaccines in children through clinical trials.

Q: Why should children get the vaccine if they are less likely to become severely sick from COVID-19?

- While most children with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all, children can – and some do – get severely ill from COVID. Those that get very sick from COVID could need to be hospitalized and in rare cases, they might die.
- Children with COVID-19 – with or without symptoms – can also spread the COVID-19 virus to others. Babies under 1 year old and children with certain underlying conditions may be more likely to have severe illness from COVID-19.
- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children: Medical and public health experts are looking into a rare, but serious medical condition, associated with COVID-19 in children, called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). Unfortunately, experts do not yet know what causes MIS-C and who is at increased risk for developing it.

Q: Can I get COVID disease from the COVID-19 vaccine?

- No. COVID-19 vaccines made using mRNA cannot give you COVID. mRNA vaccines don't use the live virus that causes COVID-19, meaning that the vaccine cannot cause you to get COVID.
 - mRNA does not stay in the body after vaccination. Our cells break down and get rid of the mRNA soon after it has been recognized and translated in order to make the protein that triggers our body's immune response.
- The Adenovirus (the viral vector) used in making the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was modified by researchers so it can not replicate in your body or cause illness. It is harmless.
 - The viral vector vaccine cannot change your DNA and is not a new technology.

Q: Can I spread COVID-19 to others after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Getting vaccinated will not cause you to get or to spread COVID-19 to others.
- However, it might still be possible to spread the virus to others even after you're vaccinated. Although getting the vaccine lowers your chances of getting seriously sick or dying from COVID-19, experts are still studying whether getting vaccinated will keep you from getting and spreading the virus in the future, even if you don't feel sick.

- Also, its important to realize that you are not protected against COVID-19 immediately after getting your shot. Your body needs time to develop protection after getting vaccinated.

Q: Can COVID-19 vaccines alter my DNA?

- No. Vaccines can not alter DNA. This is a great example of misinformation designed to scare people away from lifesaving vaccines and downplay the very real risks of vaccine-preventable diseases. At a glance, it sounds possible, but the science doesn't support it.

Q: Are COVID-19 vaccines made with fetal cells?

- COVID-19 vaccines made using mRNA technology — such as those made by Pfizer and Moderna — don't contain any fetal cells and did not use these cells in their manufacturing process.
- Viral vector COVID-19 vaccines, like the one made by Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), use lab-replicated fetal cells (known as fetal cell lines) during its production process. After the vaccine viruses are grown using the fetal cell lines, they are “purified,” and leftover cell fragments are removed. The vaccine itself does not contain any fetal cells (or their DNA).

Q: Do vaccines protect against COVID virus variants?

- According to the CDC, current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the U.S. should work against these COVID virus variants. But more studies are being done to confirm.



Frequently Asked Questions w/ Responses

****Adapted from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Q: Is there a cost to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or a requirement of healthcare insurance?

A: As per the federal government, vaccine providers cannot charge you any fees or copays for the vaccine, the vaccine is completely free of charge. Vaccine providers cannot deny vaccination to anyone who cannot present healthcare insurance or is out of network.

Q: What side effects can I expect to see after receiving my vaccine?

A: Some common side effects include pain, redness and swelling in the arm where you received the injection. Additionally, you may experience headache, fatigue, chills, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea. These symptoms do not indicate that you have been infected with COVID-19, but rather, these are all signs that your body is building immunity against COVID-19. You can expect these side effects to go away within a few days.

Q: When can I expect to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 after receiving my vaccine?

After vaccination it will take 2 weeks to build immunity against COVID-19. You are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your second dose of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna and Pfizer) or 2 weeks after your one-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson).

Q: If the Johnson & Johnson (Jassen) vaccine deployment was paused for safety reasons, why should it be required? (*iterations = J&J isn't safe; you shouldn't require a vaccine that that isn't safe*)

A: The pausing of the J&J vaccine shows that the vaccine monitoring safety systems are working! They are so sensitive, that they were able to pick up an incredibly rare potential side

effect which occurred in less than 2 in a million people. Comparatively, the risk of developing blood clots from COVID-19 illness is 165,000 per million cases. The pause shows that CDC and FDA take vaccine safety very seriously and, out of an abundance of caution, paused vaccine distribution to ensure healthcare providers and patients have the information they need to make an informed choice about the available vaccines. Experts closely examined all of the data and determined that the vaccine's benefits still far outweigh the risk of a very rare side effect like this.

A: I defer to the experts that are here to testify today, but to me, the pause of the J&J vaccine shows that our health agencies are prioritizing and very closely monitoring vaccine safety. The pause does not mean that the vaccine is inherently unsafe, but rather that our safety systems to monitor vaccination post-administration are working. There are also other options for COVID-19 vaccination in the United States.

Q: Why should my workplace be able to mandate a medical procedure, such as COVID-19 vaccination? (*Iterations = job shouldn't be limited by my medical procedures; discrimination; HIPAA violation; forcing a medical procedure; where there is risk, there should be choice*)

- Employers, businesses, healthcare institutions, etc. have a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment. Sometimes doing so requires individual actions such as wearing shoes, wearing a mask or being vaccinated.
- Vaccines are unlike many other medical interventions in that they provide a benefit not only to those who receive them, but also those the vaccinated individual interacts with.
- Employees, guests, clients, etc. have the right to access businesses that limit dangerous exposures, such as secondhand smoke and infectious diseases.

Q: Some people get COVID after being vaccinated. If this is the case, it shouldn't be required.

- Like all vaccines and many medications, the vaccines for COVID-19 are not 100% effective. A small proportion of the vaccinated population will not develop protection against COVID-19 following vaccination. This is why it is so important for the vast majority of the population to be vaccinated - to protect those who are not protected.
- Cases of COVID-19 following complete vaccination are rare. In cases where infection does happen post-vaccination, symptoms are less severe and chances of severe outcomes, including hospitalization and death are much lower.

Q: If the vaccine works, why do vaccinated people care if I'm vaccinated or not?

- The fact is that no vaccines are 100% effective at preventing illness. There will be a small percentage of people who are fully vaccinated against COVID who still get sick,

are hospitalized, or die from COVID-19. This is one of the reasons why “community immunity” (also known as “herd immunity”) is so important.

- Achieving a high enough level of vaccination will prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect those who either haven’t been vaccinated yet or cannot be vaccinated due to their age or certain medical conditions.

Q: Many people have already had COVID-19. They shouldn’t need to be vaccinated.

(iteration = should I be vaccinated if I’ve had COVID-19?)

- Individuals should be vaccinated even if they’ve already had COVID-19.
- Public health experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again.
- Experts are still learning more about how long COVID vaccines protect against COVID-19 in real-world conditions. The CDC and its partners will keep the public informed as they learn more.

Q: Why would I want to get a vaccine instead of just getting the natural immunity that comes from getting the disease? Isn’t that better?

- The benefit of COVID vaccines is that you get protection from the COVID-19 disease without having to risk the serious, and sometimes deadly, consequences of getting very sick with a COVID infection.
- The risk of complications from COVID-19 disease is much greater than the risk of adverse events following vaccination.

Q: How do we know COVID-19 vaccines are safe during pregnancy?

- Even though pregnant women were not in the COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, the CDC and the FDA have a number of safety monitoring systems in place to closely monitor the safety of pregnant women who choose to get vaccinated (and the safety of their babies).
- Early data from these systems did not find any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated or for their babies. Most of the pregnancies reported in these systems are ongoing, so more follow-up data are needed for people vaccinated just before or early in pregnancy. CDC and FDA will continue to follow people vaccinated during all trimesters of pregnancy to understand COVID vaccination effects on pregnancy and babies.

Q: Do COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility?

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Q: Can children get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The FDA has authorized emergency use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents 12 years and older. At this time, there are no COVID-19 vaccines approved for emergency use in children under 12 years old in the U.S.
- In the near future, FDA is going to review data from Pfizer's COVID vaccine clinical trials and will consider whether to authorize the vaccine for children as young as 2 years old. A number of other vaccine makers are currently testing COVID-19 vaccines in children through clinical trials.

Q: Why should children get the vaccine if they are less likely to become severely sick from COVID-19?

- While most children with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all, children can – and some do – get severely ill from COVID. Those that get very sick from COVID could need to be hospitalized and in rare cases, they might die.
- Children with COVID-19 – with or without symptoms – can also spread the COVID-19 virus to others. Babies under 1 year old and children with certain underlying conditions may be more likely to have severe illness from COVID-19.
- Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children: Medical and public health experts are looking into a rare, but serious medical condition, associated with COVID-19 in children, called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). Unfortunately, experts do not yet know what causes MIS-C and who is at increased risk for developing it.

Q: Can I get COVID disease from the COVID-19 vaccine?

- No. COVID-19 vaccines made using mRNA cannot give you COVID. mRNA vaccines don't use the live virus that causes COVID-19, meaning that the vaccine cannot cause you to get COVID.
 - mRNA does not stay in the body after vaccination. Our cells break down and get rid of the mRNA soon after it has been recognized and translated in order to make the protein that triggers our body's immune response.
- The Adenovirus (the viral vector) used in making the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was modified by researchers so it can not replicate in your body or cause illness. It is harmless.
 - The viral vector vaccine cannot change your DNA and is not a new technology.

Q: Can I spread COVID-19 to others after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Getting vaccinated will not cause you to get or to spread COVID-19 to others.
- However, it might still be possible to spread the virus to others even after you're vaccinated. Although getting the vaccine lowers your chances of getting seriously sick or dying from COVID-19, experts are still studying whether getting vaccinated will keep you from getting and spreading the virus in the future, even if you don't feel sick.

- Also, its important to realize that you are not protected against COVID-19 immediately after getting your shot. Your body needs time to develop protection after getting vaccinated.

Q: Can COVID-19 vaccines alter my DNA?

- No. Vaccines can not alter DNA. This is a great example of misinformation designed to scare people away from lifesaving vaccines and downplay the very real risks of vaccine-preventable diseases. At a glance, it sounds possible, but the science doesn't support it.

Q: Are COVID-19 vaccines made with fetal cells?

- COVID-19 vaccines made using mRNA technology — such as those made by Pfizer and Moderna — don't contain any fetal cells and did not use these cells in their manufacturing process.
- Viral vector COVID-19 vaccines, like the one made by Johnson & Johnson (Janssen), use lab-replicated fetal cells (known as fetal cell lines) during its production process. After the vaccine viruses are grown using the fetal cell lines, they are “purified,” and leftover cell fragments are removed. The vaccine itself does not contain any fetal cells (or their DNA).

Q: Do vaccines protect against COVID virus variants?

- According to the CDC, current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the U.S. should work against these COVID virus variants. But more studies are being done to confirm.