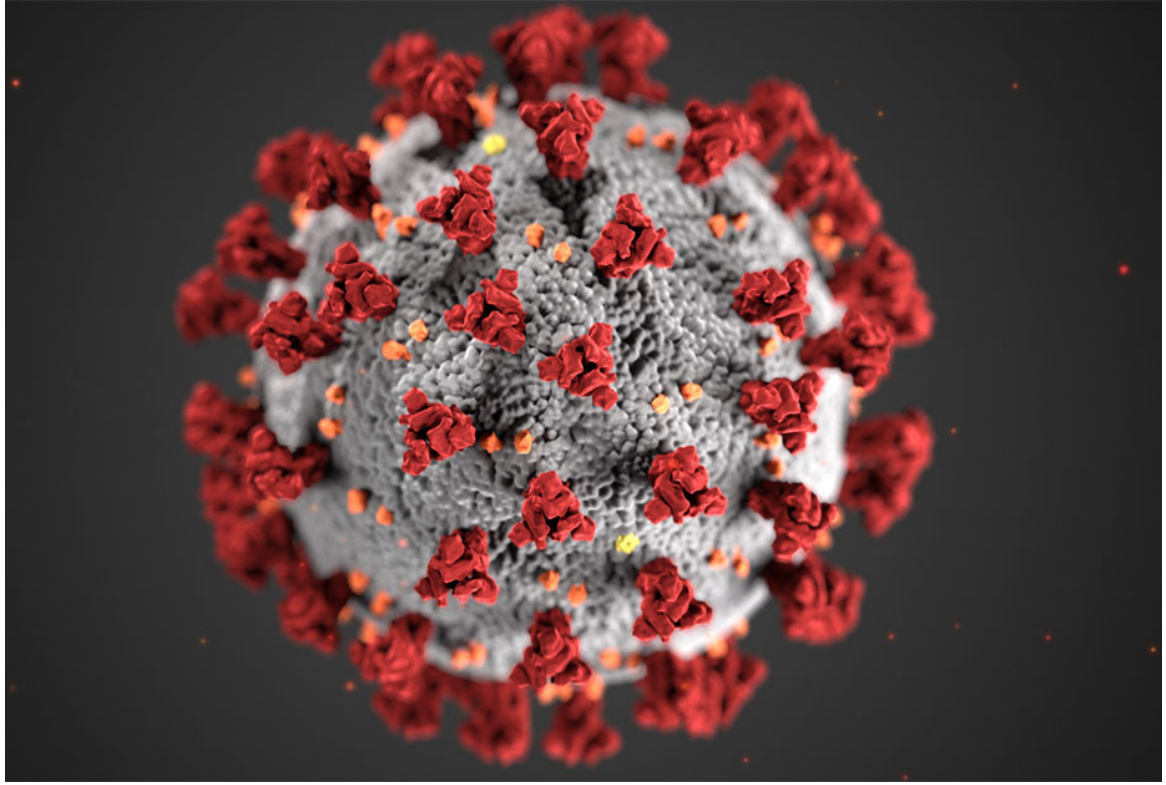
THE COVID-19 VACCINE



Understanding how the vaccine works

A Q&A brochure for the vaccine

THE COVID-19 VACCINE

How does our immune system fight COVID?

To understand how COVID-19 vaccines work, it helps to first look at how our bodies fight illness. When germs, such as the virus that causes COVID-19, invade our bodies, they attack and multiply. This invasion, called an infection, is what causes illness

What happens next?

The first time a person is infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, it can take several days or weeks for their body to make and use all the germ-fighting tools needed to get over the infection. After the infection, the person's immune system remembers what it learned about how to protect the body against that disease.

THE COVID-19 VACCINE

The body keeps a few T-lymphocytes, called memory cells, that go into action quickly if the body encounters the same virus again. When the familiar antigens are detected, B-lymphocytes produce antibodies to attack them. Experts are still learning how long these memory cells protect a person against the virus that causes COVID-19.

What does the vaccine do?

COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. Different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection, but with all types of vaccines, the body is left with a supply of “memory” T-lymphocytes as well as B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight that virus in the future.

Any side effects?

After getting vaccinated, you may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. The most common side effects are pain and swelling in the arm where you received the shot. In addition, you may have fever, chills, tiredness, and headache. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

3 Types of Vaccines?

1) **mRNA vaccines** - Contain material from the virus that causes COVID-19 that gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus.
2) **Protein subunit vaccines** - Include harmless pieces (proteins) of the virus that cause COVID-19 instead of the entire germ.
3) **Vector vaccines** - Contain a weakened version of a live virus—a different virus than the one that causes COVID-19—that has genetic material from the virus that causes COVID-19 inserted in it (this is called a viral vector).

Please remember to keep yourself and all loved ones safe during these times. Together we can overcome COVID-19

The following places have committed to offering all communities vaccine services

For more information, go to cdc.gov, or scan the qr code below

Walmart

CVS pharmacy

Walgreens