About the COVID-19 Vaccine

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

It is medicine that helps you to not get sick from COVID-19. You get this medicine by getting two shots in your arm three or four weeks apart. You need both shots for the medicine to work. After that, you might have to get a shot every year.

Is the COVID-19 shot safe?

The shot was tested with many thousands of people to make sure it is safe. These people were different ages and races and they had different health problems. Most people did not have any serious reactions to the vaccine.

Why should I get the COVID-19 shot?

Getting the shot can keep you from getting sick with COVID-19. If you do get the virus, you won't get sick from it. After a lot of people get the shot, we can go back to our activities and start seeing people again.

Who should get the COVID-19 shot?

Everyone should get the shot. People with disabilities are at higher risk for getting sick from COVID-19. It is important that all people with disabilities, their families, and their support staff get the COVID-19 shot so everyone is protected.

Where can I get the COVID-19 shot?

The plan for giving shots is being made right now. Your doctor or clinic should be able to tell you how you get a shot. You can ask your public health office how you can get the shot. This link will help you find your public health office: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties.htm

If you live in a licensed facility (nursing home, assisted living) you can check to see if your facility is scheduled to receive the vaccine and you will

be able to receive the vaccine right where you live. Email dhscovidvaccinator@wi.gov to get information about the place you live.

How will I feel if I get the shot?

You get the shot in your arm with a needle. It is quick and easy. Your arm might be a little red or hurt after you get the shot. You might get a fever, feel tired, have a headache, or have aches and pains. This is normal and will last a day or two. It is a lot like what you might feel after a flu shot.

When should I get the COVID-19 shot?

You should get a shot as soon as it is available to you. It may take 9 to 12 months for everyone in Wisconsin to get the shot.

The State of Wisconsin has a plan for who gets the shot first. Healthcare workers, first responders, people in nursing homes, and essential workers will get the shot first. Go to this link to see Wisconsin's plan for the shots: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02813a.pdf

Should I get the shot if I already had COVID-19?

Talk to your doctor about this. People who have had the virus can get sick again. Experts are still learning about the virus and the shot. Your doctor should know the newest information.

Will I still need to wear a mask, social distance, and wash my hands after I get the vaccine?

Yes. It is important for everyone to do these things until doctors learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine. Wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands will also help protect you from other viruses like the flu.

Who will pay for my COVID-19 shot?

The government is paying for the vaccine. There might be a fee to your insurance, but you will not have to pay anything to get the shot.

Adapted from the AUCD, Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Plain Language Flu Shot Document.