# COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

Information as of February 2, 2021

## WHAT IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

• The COVID-19 vaccine **protects** you from getting sick with COVID-19 .

• The vaccine comes in **two shots**. After getting your first shot, you will take the second shot in 3-4 weeks.

• You need to wait 2 weeks after your second shot to be fully protected from COVID-19.

## HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

• COVID-19 vaccine uses **mRNA**, which teaches your body to safely build protection against COVID-19.

• mRNA **does not change your genes (DNA)** because the mRNA cannot affect your DNA.

## WHO SHOULD GET THE VACCINE?

• Everyone should get vaccinated, including those with health problems and older adults.

• Even if you already had COVID-19, you should still get vaccinated to protect yourself and others.

## WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL DISTANCING?

• Even if you are vaccinated, please continue to **wear your mask, wash your hands often, and stay at least 6 feet away from other people you do not live with.**

• Your efforts will help keep everyone safe!

## IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE?

• **Yes!** The COVID-19 vaccines have been tested in trials and **the data shows that COVID-19 vaccines are safe**, and that they work. People that get the vaccine are asked to report any side effect, so we know it continues to be safe.

• **How can we know it is safe and works if it was produced so fast?**

- Scientists have been working with mRNA vaccines for more than a decade, and were able to quickly apply them to the COVID-19 virus. Extra money from the federal government allowed them to work faster, but without skipping any steps. Because the disease has been spreading fast, they were able to show the vaccine worked much sooner than they would for other vaccines.

## CAN A COVID-19 VACCINE MAKE YOU SICK WITH COVID-19?

• **No!** COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the virus. This means the vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.

• The vaccine teaches our body to recognize and fight the COVID-19 virus.

• With the shots, you may have mild symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms show that your body is building **protection.**

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

• The vaccine reduces your chances of getting sick from COVID-19, and may reduce your chance of spreading it to others.

## WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD THE VACCINE?

• The vaccine is **free**!

• Some online appointment systems may ask you for your insurance information, but even if you have no insurance, you can get the vaccine.

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**For the most up-to-date information, visit coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax**

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