



Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

COVID-19 Latest Developments: Vaccinations and Variants

June 1, 2021

COVID-19 Latest Developments: Vaccinations and Variants

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i4Y Innovations
for Youth

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DISCLAIMER:

Information shared is up-to-date, to our knowledge, as of the date of the seminar. Our knowledge regarding COVID-19 and the vaccine is expanding every day!



01

COVID-19: Timeline

COVID-19 1 Year Later

OUR PANDEMIC YEAR—A COVID-19 TIMELINE

On March 11, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Here is a look back at a year in disruption.

A MYSTERIOUS NEW ILLNESS

Images appear of Wuhan in lockdown, where officials attempt to contain a mysterious virus. Soon after, new cases and deaths related to (what's later named) COVID-19 surge in Europe.

THE WORLD SHUTS DOWN

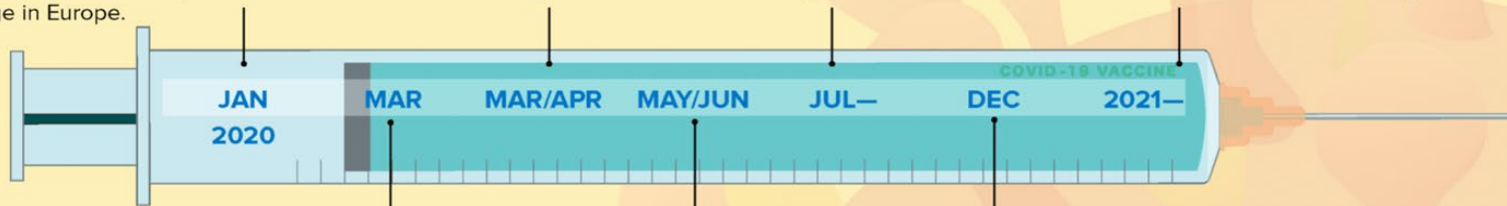
Countries seal borders; sports teams cancel seasons; schools close and employees go home. People start wearing masks and "social distancing."

UPTICK IN MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

People struggle as continued unemployment and/or working from home without childcare/school takes its toll. U.S. break records for daily cases/deaths.

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

2021 begins with a race to vaccinate. Cases and deaths begin to fall. But the variants are still a threat, vaccine rollout is uneven, and we are still wearing masks.



THE VIRUS SPREADS, CASES MULTIPLY

The Grand Princess cruise ship, docked outside of San Fran, has passengers with COVID-19; Bay Area is first in the U.S. to announce shelter-in-place orders; hospitals become overwhelmed as cases grow; there is a nationwide shortage of PPE.

FLATTENING THE CURVE—FOR A WHILE

After "flattening the curve," cases begin to skyrocket again as states "reopen" in different phases. Researchers continue to race to identify treatments and make vaccines.

NEW HOPE, NEW MUTATIONS

The FDA authorizes two vaccines. Major variants begin to circulate, some of which might impact the effectiveness of vaccines.

Credit: Maya Szatai; [Yale, 2021](#)

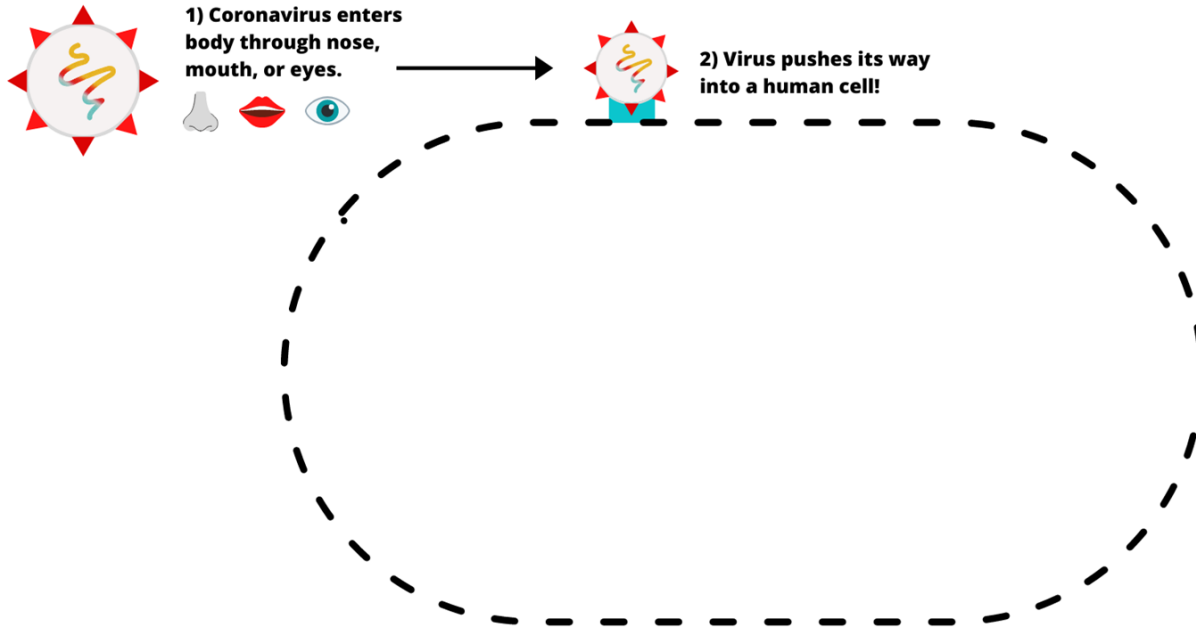


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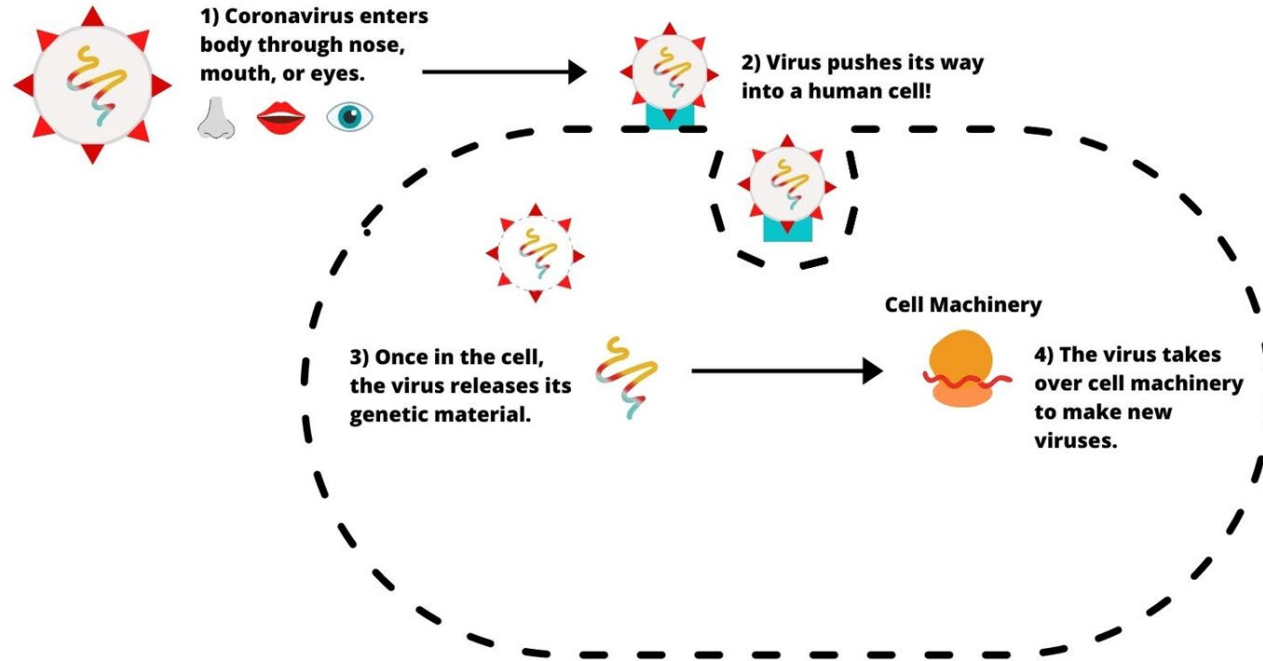
COVID-19 and the Vaccine

How does the virus infect us?
How does the vaccine work?

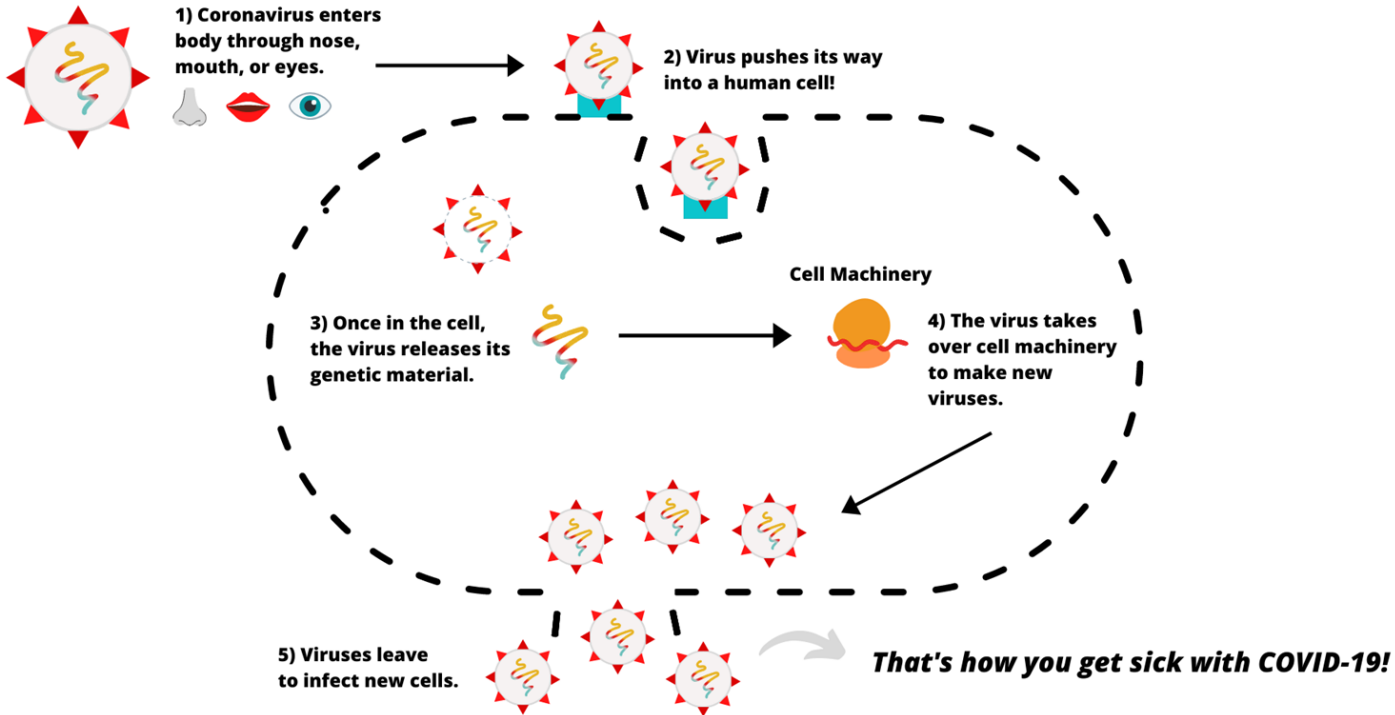
How does the virus infect cells?



How does the virus infect cells?



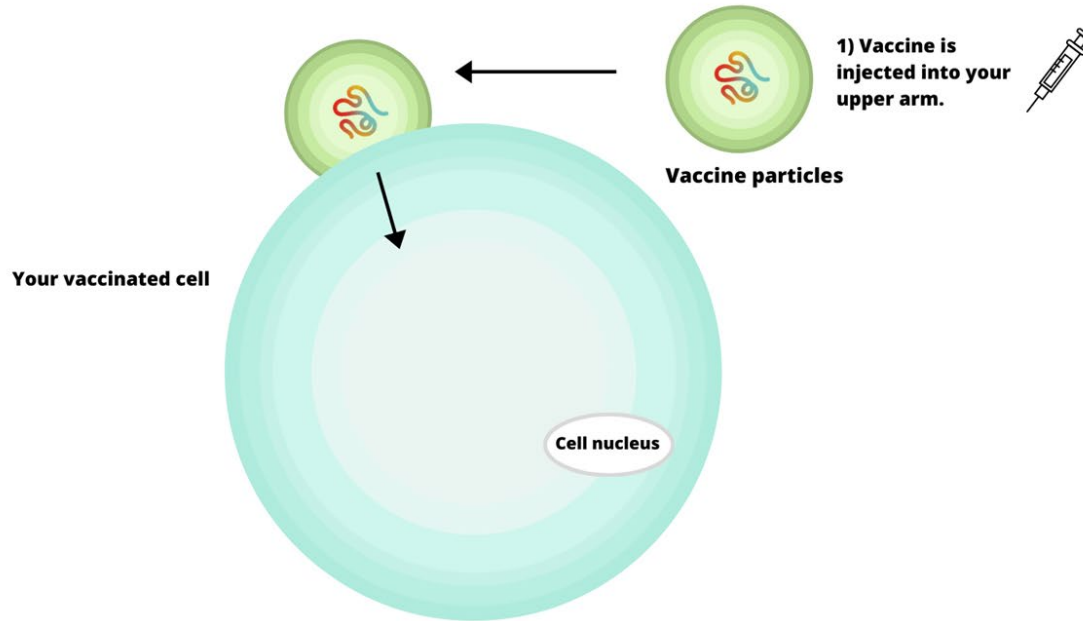
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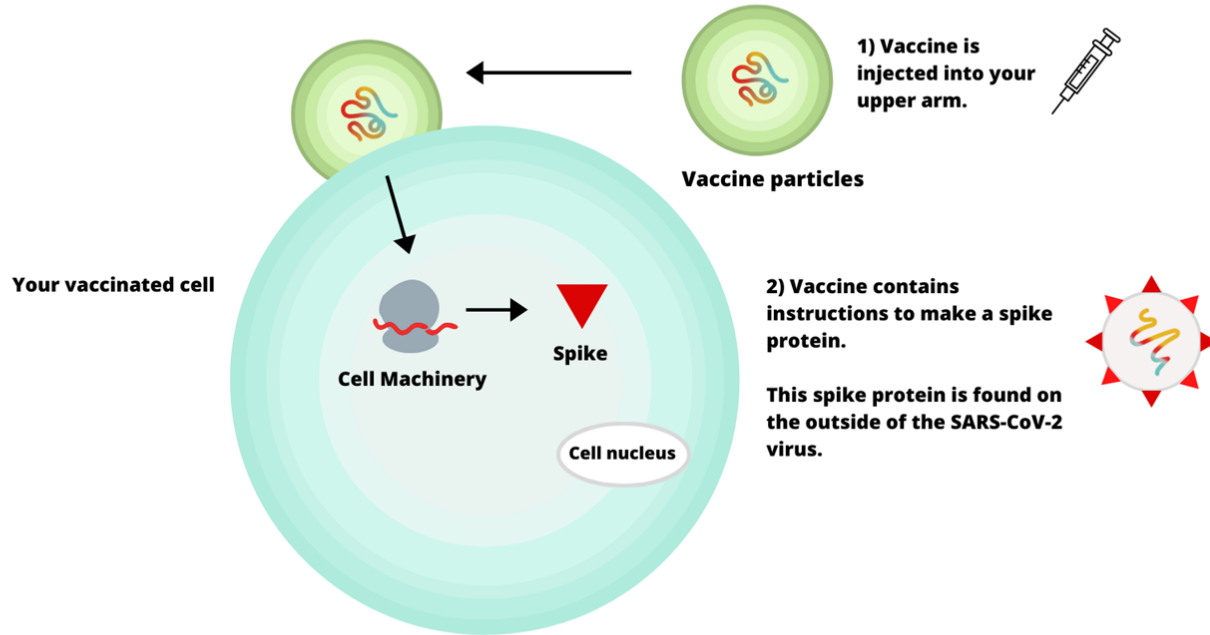
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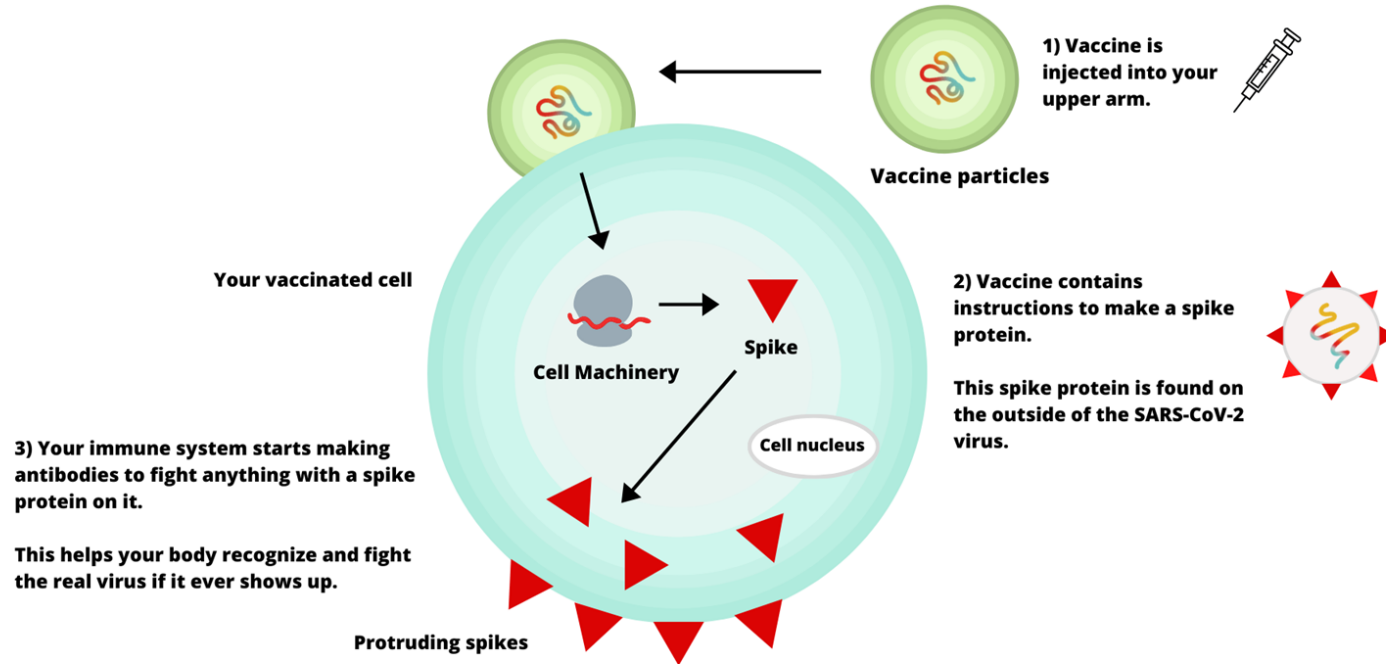
How do the vaccines work?



How do the vaccines work?



How do the vaccines work?



Side Effects of the Vaccine

Side effects

- Arm swelling, redness and pain, headache, fatigue, fever/chills, nausea, muscle pain
- May have more side effects if have had COVID-19 before
- Side effects may last up to 48-72 hours and may interrupt your usual activities

Treatment for Side Effects (if they occur):
rest, fluids, acetaminophen/ibuprofen after the shot (for fever or pain), compress on arm

Extremely rare:
Serious allergic reactions may (very rarely) occur within 15 minutes of shot.
This is why vaccination sites have a 15-20 minute waiting period after vaccination.

COVID-19 VACCINES

HOW DO WE KNOW
THEY ARE SAFE?





03

Variants

What are variants and where do they come from?

Variants

Slightly different types of the virus that have the chance to develop every time a new person is infected, i.e., each time virus is copied.

- Variants that are more effective at making new people sick are more likely to be successful
- Variants are generally more infectious (i.e., people who have those variants are more contagious to others); some variants are more likely to make you very sick or die.

What does it mean for vaccination?

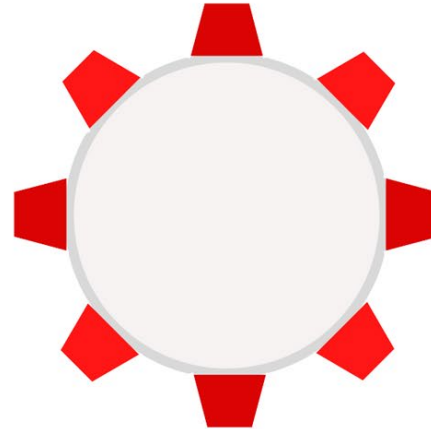
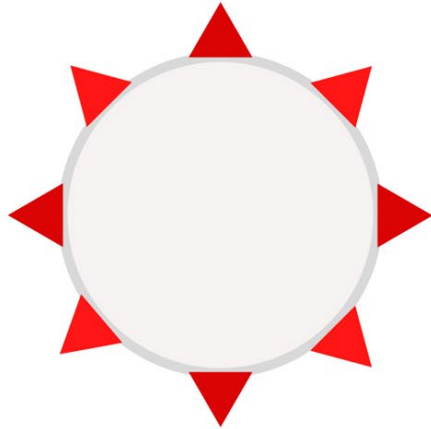
- So far, vaccines protect against hospitalizations and deaths due to variants
- Possible that a variant will be able to be resistant to vaccine

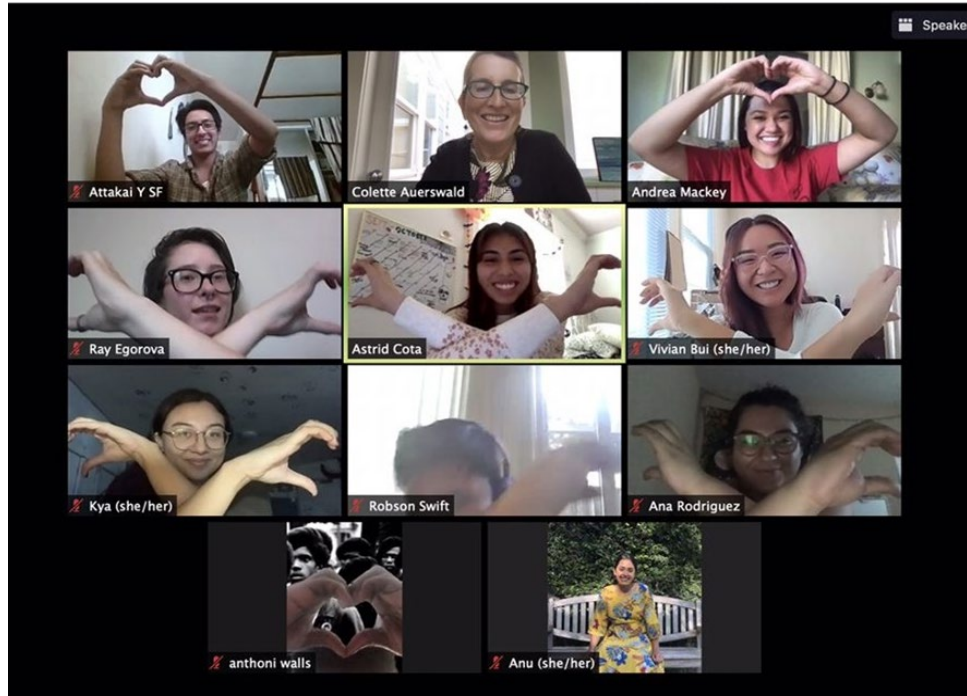


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Coronavirus Variants





04

Vaccinating youth and safety protocols in the vaccine era

Vaccinating youth experiencing homelessness

Why Should Youth Get Vaccinated?



↑ Chance of Death

People experiencing homelessness have a 30% greater chance of dying if infected than people who are housed.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.05.21253019v1>



↑ Higher Risk of Conditions

At risk of negative outcomes, like hospitalization or death

Nutritional problems: Anorexia, underweight or obesity

Immune disorders: HIV, autoimmune conditions

Cardiac Disease: congenital heart disease, endocarditis

Lung Disease: Smoking, Asthma

Liver disease: Hepatitis

Neurological diseases: Seizures

Vaccinating People Experiencing Homelessness: Challenges



Access to wifi, cell phones,
consistent phone number



Complicated online sign-up
process



Limited transportation



Eligibility



Literacy limitations

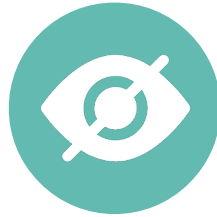


Less Access to Trusted Info

Challenges Specific to Youth



Less likely to access shelters or services for people experiencing homelessness



Hidden: Challenge to get vaccine



Transient: Challenge to Records of Vaccine



Perception they are not at risk

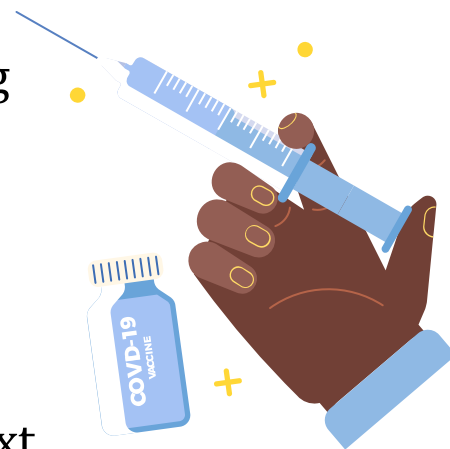
Best Practices for Vaccine Delivery to Youth

- Offer opportunities to ask questions of trusted sources
- Solicit youth input and feedback
- Enlist youth vaccine ambassadors
- Customize approaches to different subgroups of youth
- Provide incentives for getting vaccinated
- Provide respite site for youth experiencing symptoms
- Provide transportation



Best Practices for Vaccine Delivery to Youth

- Ensure eligibility of all people experiencing homelessness
- Bring vaccines to places where youth experiencing homelessness spend time
- Bypass appointments; offer walk-in vaccines
- Offer single-dose vaccine to those who prefer it, if available
- Collect demographic data to monitor equity
- Provide multiple reminders for second vaccine (text, email, phone, outreach)



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CDC Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

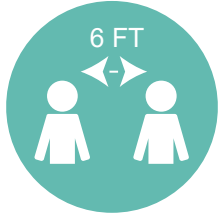
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html#vaccinated>



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Other Prevention Measures



Stay 6 Feet Apart

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for > 15 minutes.



Wear a Mask

Pick a mask with layers to keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out.



Wash/Sanitize Hands

Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if you cannot wash.



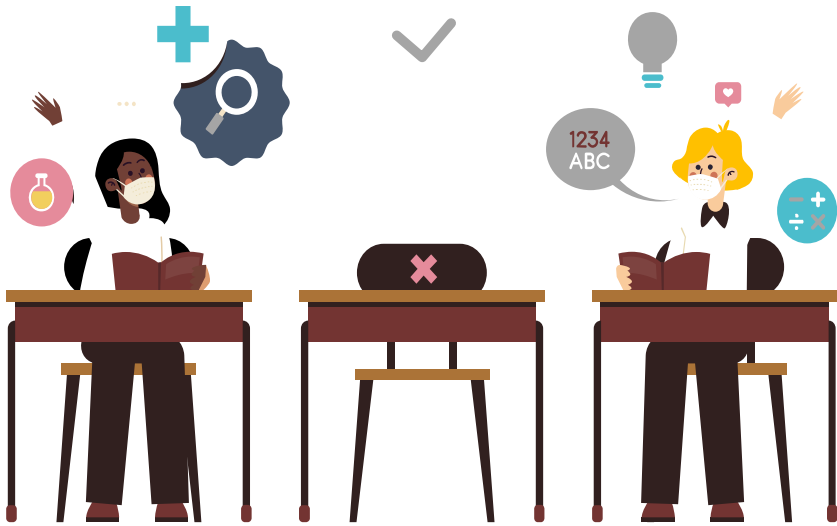
Avoid Crowds

- Hard to maintain social distance in crowds.
- Multiple households in private or public space
 - Ticketed events
 - Conferences, sporting events, concerts, large weddings/parties



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05

Vaccine Hesitancy and Common Concerns

Vaccine Hesitancy is...



...Delaying or refusing a vaccine despite it being available.

Individuals may display vaccine hesitancy due to...

- Perceived risk due to their health status
- Mistrust of vaccine development process
- Perceived risk of vaccine
- Being against vaccines (anti-vaxxer)
- Arguments of influential leaders, or lack of vaccination uptake in one's social network

Vaccine Hesitancy is not...



...Delaying or refusing a vaccine despite it being available due to:

- Having unanswered questions
- Lack of transportation or not being able to afford transportation
- Being asked for documentation
- Not having access to wifi to or the skills to schedule an appointment online
- Not speaking English
- Having limited literacy skills

Common Concerns

Do the vaccines work against the variants?

At this time, yes (as of May 4, 2021).

Furthermore, each new infection is an opportunity to develop a resistant variant → important for all of us that everyone get vaccinated.

Which vaccine should I get?

- Whichever vaccine you can get access to as soon as possible
- All provide a high level of protection against death and hospitalization
- All are much safer than not being vaccinated

Moderna	Pfizer-BioNTech	Johnson & Johnson
2 shots in the upper arm, 28 days apart	2 shots in the upper arm, 21 days apart	1 shot in the upper arm
Recommended for ages 18+	Recommended for ages 12+*	Recommended for ages 18+



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Why do some people have side effects after a shot and others do not?

- Likely a combination of:
 - History of prior exposure to other coronaviruses or to COVID-19;
 - Age;
 - Genetics (everyone is different)
- If you don't get symptoms it does not mean you are not protected



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When will I be protected after I get the vaccine?

- After Johnson & Johnson: two weeks after single dose
- After Moderna and Pfizer: two weeks after second dose



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Why should I get vaccinated?

- To prevent getting hospitalized or dying from COVID-19
- To prevent getting sick from COVID-19
- To prevent giving COVID-19 to people you live with, work with, love, or interact with
- To prevent the development of variants that may be resistant to vaccines



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Can I hang out without a mask with my friends or go out with someone new?

As of April 2021:

- Yes, if they are also vaccinated!
- Yes, if they are not vaccinated but are only from one household or pod
- Yes, if you are in a small gathering of people who are vaccinated except for one household or pod that is not
- No, if in a large crowd of people
- No, if they are at risk for severe outcomes if they get infected

If I have allergies can I still get the vaccine?

- Allergic reactions to the vaccine are very rare and are treatable
- To prevent these rare events, everyone is monitored for 15 minutes for signs of an allergic reaction, including shortness of breath
- People who have allergies may be more likely to get an allergic reaction, but it is still a very rare event
- The risk to your health from COVID-19 is far greater than the risk of an allergic reaction



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Can you still be infected with the virus if you are vaccinated?

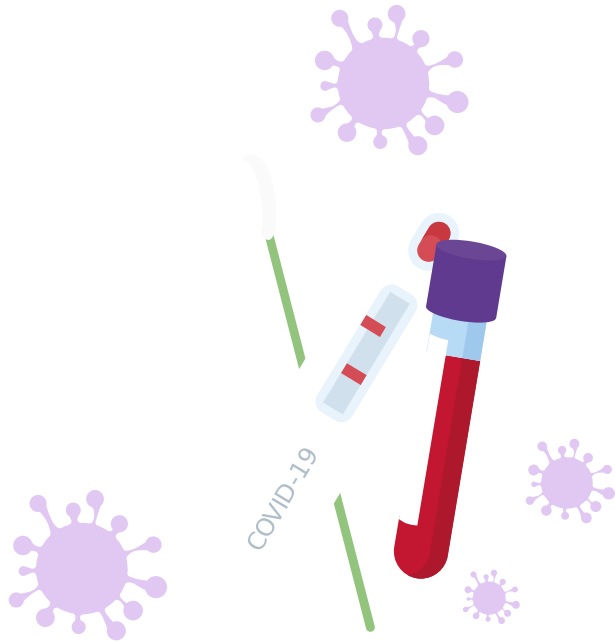
It is possible but reduced by at least:

- 75% (J&J two weeks after the single dose)
- 90% (Moderna two weeks after the second dose)
- 94% (Pfizer two weeks after the second dose)



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06

Talking about the COVID-19 vaccine

Approaches to talking about the
COVID-19 vaccine with youth and staff

Leader's Vaccine Dialogue Training

PURPOSE

- To support conversations within RHY programs related to the latest COVID-related developments
- To prepare programs on conversations on vaccine confidence and how to facilitate conversations with staff and program participants

“A Conversation with Youth about Vaccine Side Effects”

“A Conversation between a Staff Member and Youth about Variants and Vaccine Development”

“A Conversation With Provider Team and Staff Members about How to Support Youth to Get Vaccinated”

“A Conversation With Staff Member and Young Person on Choosing the Right Vaccine”



Resources



Your Vaccination

- › [Preparing for your vaccine](#)
- › [Getting your vaccine](#)
- › [Frequently asked questions](#)



After Vaccination

- › [Possible side effects](#)
- › [Register for v-safe](#)
- › [When you've been fully vaccinated](#)



For Specific Groups

- › [Pregnancy or breastfeeding](#)
- › [Teachers & school staff](#)
- › [Different groups](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Data

Total Doses
Distributed

329,840,055

Total Doses
Administered

257,347,205

Updated May 8, 2021 9:00am ET

COVID-19 Data Tracker

View more data on number of vaccines distributed and administered

[MORE DATA >](#)



Questions?

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Evaluation and Upcoming Events

- **Please complete the evaluation for this event:** <https://tinyurl.com/sc9dbcjw>
 - Select *Webinar* as the Event Type, and *COVID-19 Latest Developments 6/1/21* In the dropdown menu
- **Join us for upcoming RHYTTAC events:**
 - [Covid-19 Webinar Series](#): Getting Back to “Normal”: Preparing for the Future
 - Coming June 2021
 - Save the Date: [National RHY Grantees Training](#)
 - November 16-19, 2021



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