



Importance of Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

NRCI

Northeast Regional
Cancer Institute

Your Cancer Compass

Importance of getting vaccinated

Vaccine safety

Managing side effects

How to obtain in PA

cancernepa.org

COVID-19 continues to have a serious impact on many people, including cancer patients, their families, and caregivers. Along with support and advocacy for our patients, the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute wants to provide health care information and education on the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine, especially if you or a loved one is a cancer patient.

COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits:

It will help keep you from getting COVID-19.

- All vaccines currently available in the U.S have shown to be highly effective against COVID-19.
- All vaccines that are in development are carefully evaluated through clinical trials and are only authorized if shown to be highly effective against COVID-19.
- Experts believe the vaccine will prevent you from getting seriously ill even if you do contract COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated may also protect those around you, including individuals at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.



Vaccination is a safer way to help build protection.

- COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications and there is no way to tell how the virus will affect you. You also spread the virus to those around you if you get sick with COVID-19.
- Clinical trials for vaccines must prove that they are safe and effective before they can be approved for use. The known and potential benefits of the vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine under what is known as Emergency Use Authorization.
- The vaccination helps individuals by creating an anti-body response without experiencing sickness.

COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

- While wearing masks and social distancing help reduce the risk of being exposed, these measures are not enough. Vaccines work with the immune system to help fight COVID-19 if exposure occurs.
- Getting vaccinated and following the CDC's recommendations (wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart, avoiding crowds) will offer the best protection.

I'm a cancer patient, should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Many expert medical groups recommend that most patients with cancer or a history of cancer should get a COVID-19 vaccine. Since the situation for every person is different, it is best to discuss the risks and benefits of getting the COVID-19 vaccine with your cancer doctor, who can advise you.

What to expect after I get my COVID-19 vaccinations?

You may have some side effects with one or both of the shots, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may feel like the flu and may even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Common side effects may include:

Individuals may feel tired, achy, feverish, and/or have a headache.

Where can I obtain a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines are **FREE** and there are various locations to schedule an appointment.

Visit <https://www.pa.gov/guides/get-vaccinated/> to find a vaccine provider near you by entering in your zip code.



COVID-19 Vaccine Myths vs. Facts

✘ MYTH

The vaccine could be dangerous because it was rushed through approvals.

✔ FACT

Although the vaccine process went quickly, safety protocols were followed, and included human testing.



✘ MYTH

If I don't get the COVID-19 vaccine, it is my choice and won't affect people around me.

✔ FACT

If you don't get the vaccine, you can get the coronavirus and spread it to others.



Source: "COVID-19 Vaccine Myths and Facts," Health Beat, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, December 2020

Type of COVID-19 vaccines:

No matter which COVID-19 vaccine you get, you can rest assured that it is both safe and effective in protecting against severe infections.

Pfizer-BioNTech	2 shots	Given 3 weeks apart Vaccinated two weeks after shot 2
Moderna	2 shots	Given 4 weeks apart Vaccinated two weeks after shot 2
Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Resumed again in United States April 24, 2021	1 shot	Vaccinated two weeks after shot 1

Questions about the COVID-19 vaccine? Contact us: 570.904.8808



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