



In an effort to share vital COVID-19 vaccination information with our communities, Fulmont Community Action Agency, Inc. has created this helpful information sheet outlining the **benefits of receiving a COVID-19 Vaccine**. We hope this information will help you to make an informed decision about receiving the vaccine.

The benefits of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine include:

COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19. Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine also helps keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Once you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing more. After you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19, you may be able to start doing some things that you stopped doing because of the pandemic. For example, you can gather indoors without masks with other people who are fully vaccinated.

People are not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. You should keep using all the tools available to protect yourself and others until you are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection. Getting COVID-19 may offer some protection, known as natural immunity. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the months after initial infection, but may increase with time. The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without having to experience sickness.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated now that COVID-19 vaccines are available in the United States. While more COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure the safety of any vaccine that is authorized or approved for use. Safety is a top priority, and there are many reasons to get vaccinated.

None of the COVID-19 vaccines can make you sick with COVID-19. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. Many people do experience side effects while their body's immune systems learn to recognize and fight the virus. These side effects are temporary and usually last no more than day or two.

To learn more, please visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at: www.cdc.gov or contact your county Health Department at: **(518) 736-5720** (Fulton County), or **(518) 853-3531** (Montgomery County).