“Based on existing evidence, the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19 significantly outweigh the extremely low risk of blood clots or other hemolytic complications reported after vaccination. In fact, COVID-19 infection carries a much higher risk of blood clots—$147,000 in 1 million hospitalized COVID-19 patients experience clots, compared to roughly two in 1 million individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.”

American Society of Hematology (ASH) President Maria S. Tallman, M.D.

**Vaccines on the go**

**FACT:** Tests of COVID-19 vaccines are now more widely accessible as vaccination providers can’t charge you for vaccines. **MYTH:** We won’t need to wear a mask after I get the COVID-19 vaccine. **FACT:** It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccine to get vaccinated. Use all the tools available to protect yourself and others until fully vaccinated: wear a mask, stay 6 feet away from others, and wash your hands often.

**FACT:** Studies show the vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19 and also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get sick. **MYTH:** Millions of people in the U.S. have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. **FACT:** These vaccines can’t give you COVID-19. **MYTH:** It’s possible a person could still get COVID-19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine didn’t have enough time to provide protection. **FACT:** You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal. Side effects such as chills or tiredness may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. **MYTH:** You are not fully vaccinated until two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or one week after a one-dose vaccine. **FACT:** Vaccines are now more widely accessible in the U.S. Many doctors’ offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals and clinics are now or will soon be able to offer them. **MYTH:** Most people 12 years and older are now eligible for vaccination. **FACT:** Vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal. People who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. **MYTH:** There are no side effects after vaccination. **FACT:** Vaccines are safe and effective at protecting against COVID-19, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. **FACT:** You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal. Side effects such as chills or tiredness may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. **FACT:** You are not fully vaccinated until two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or one week after a one-dose vaccine. **FACT:** Vaccines are now more widely accessible in the U.S. Many doctors’ offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals and clinics are now or will soon be able to offer them. **MYTH:** Most people 12 years and older are now eligible for vaccination. **FACT:** Vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal. People who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. **FACT:** Use all the tools available to protect yourself and others until fully vaccinated: wear a mask, stay 6 feet away from others, and wash your hands often.

**FACT:** The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the U.S., regardless of immigration or health insurance status. **FACT:** Vaccination providers can’t charge you for the vaccine.

— Based on existing evidence, the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19 significantly outweigh the extremely low risk of blood clots or other hemolytic complications reported after vaccination. In fact, COVID-19 infection carries a much higher risk of blood clots—$147,000 in 1 million hospitalized COVID-19 patients experience clots, compared to roughly two in 1 million individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.”

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**Types of vaccines at a glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Manufacturer</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Dosage Schedule</th>
<th>Side Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pfizer-BioNTech</td>
<td>People 16+</td>
<td>2 shots given 21 days apart</td>
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**Vaccine myths debunked**

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe because it was rapidly developed and tested. **FACT:** Many pharmaceutical companies invested significant resources into quickly developing a vaccine for COVID-19 because of the worldwide impact of the pandemic. The emergency situation warranted an emergency response but that does not mean that companies bypassed safety protocols or didn’t perform adequate testing.

**MYTH:** I already had COVID-19 and recovered, so I don’t need to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it’s available. **FACT:** There is not enough information currently available to say 100% for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. This is a natural immunity. Early evidence suggests that people who got COVID-19 can be reinfected and may be at higher risk of severe COVID-19 than those who never had it. People should not get vaccinated if in quarantine after exposure or if they have COVID-19 previously.

**MYTH:** Inoculate against the coronavirus using natural immunity. Early evidence suggests that people who got COVID-19 may lose protection from getting COVID-19 again. This is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests that people who got COVID-19 can be reinfected and may be at higher risk of severe COVID-19 than those who never had it. People should not get vaccinated if in quarantine after exposure or if they have COVID-19 previously.

**MYTH:** COVID-19 vaccine is not fully effective. **FACT:** The CDC and the FDA are the gold standard for both safety and the evaluation of efficacy. I think in the long run what we’re going to see—probable we’ll see it soon—is that people will realize that we take safety very seriously,” said White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci during a TV interview in late April.

**MYTH:** I won’t need to wear a mask after I get the COVID-19 vaccine. **FACT:** It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccine to get vaccinated. Use all the tools available to protect yourself and others until fully vaccinated: wear a mask, stay 6 feet away from others, and wash your hands often.

**MYTH:** I don’t need to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it’s available. **FACT:** No, COVID-19 vaccines have not been linked to disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), a rare condition that causes COVID-19 infection to have not been linked to DIC.

**FACT:** Studies show the vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19 and also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get sick. **MYTH:** Millions of people in the U.S. have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. **FACT:** These vaccines can’t give you COVID-19. **MYTH:** It’s possible a person could still get COVID-19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine didn’t have enough time to provide protection. **FACT:** You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal. Side effects such as chills or tiredness may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. **MYTH:** You are not fully vaccinated until two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or one week after a one-dose vaccine. **FACT:** Vaccines are now more widely accessible in the U.S. Many doctors’ offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals and clinics are now or will soon be able to offer them. **MYTH:** Most people 12 years and older are now eligible for vaccination. **FACT:** Vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal. People who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic. **FACT:** Use all the tools available to protect yourself and others until fully vaccinated: wear a mask, stay 6 feet away from others, and wash your hands often.

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— Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**CORONAVIRUS**

**Vaccine testing begins in the laboratory, and continues through trials involving thousands of human volunteers prior to a vaccine being licensed for widespread use. In the case of the three COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the U.S., more than 110,000 people volunteered and participated in these studies, and close tracking of more than 235 million doses administered since have found exceedingly few incidents—a fraction of one percent chance—of serious side effects or reactions.**

**The CDC and the FDA are the gold standard for both safety and the evaluation of efficacy, I think in the long run what we’re going to see—we’ll probably see it soon—is that people will realize that we take safety very seriously.”**

Dr. Anthony Fauci

**FACTS ON VACCINES**

By Brian Steele

**How many shots needed?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>PFizer-BioNTech</th>
<th>Moderna</th>
<th>Johnson &amp; Johnson</th>
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**Side effects are indicators that your immune system is responding to the vaccine and are common when receiving vaccines.**

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**CONTENT:** CNHI News Michigan: Andy Taylor, Nathan Payne

**GRAPHIC:** Brian Steele

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