The truth about the COVID-19 vaccine

As soon as COVID-19 hit the news, the race for a vaccine began. Now that it's here, you may be unsure if you want it. Despite what you may have heard, the vaccine is your best chance at protecting against COVID. Here are five facts to help you decide to get vaccinated.



The vaccine works.

Current vaccines protect against COVID 95% of the time. Compare this to the flu vaccine, which is effective 40-60% of the time.

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The vaccine cannot give you the virus. COVID-19 vaccines don't contain live viruses. Because of this, they can't cause you to have COVID-19. They can, however, teach your body to recognize and fight off the live version.

3



Nearly all reactions are mild.

Most people experience no side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. If you have a reaction, you'll likely have mild symptoms, such as arm pain or a low fever.

Source: Krames

4



You'll need a booster shot for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

Unlike the flu shot, COVID-19 vaccine recipients must receive a booster shot. Depending on which vaccine you receive, the second injection should be received 21 days (Pfizer-BioNTech) or 28 days (Moderna) after initial immunization.

5



It's safer than the virus. Everything comes with risks. However, the risk of vaccine complications is significantly lower than the inherent risks of contracting COVID-19.

LCMC 9. Health

Inside the making of COVID-19 vaccines

From the outside, it seems like the COVID-19 vaccine was created in just a few months. But is this true? Not exactly. Here is how COVID-19 vaccines went from the lab to ready for emergency use.



Scientists spent years researching immunity-boosting compounds for other coronavirus strands. There are many types of coronaviruses, some of which cause the common cold and other illnesses.



Researchers determined which vaccine would likely provide greatest benefit against COVID-19.



Potential vaccines were studied in animals. Once this proved useful and safe, tens of thousands of volunteers received the vaccine in clinical trials.



Distribution of vaccines began. Every batch is tested before being sent to clinics, doctor's offices and pharmacies, where they're distributed to the public.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reviewed study designs and results. They then granted emergency use authorization (EUA) to the vaccines determined to have benefits outweighing their potential risks.

What exactly is EUA?

One reason COVID-19 vaccines were available so quickly is because they were given emergency use authorization (EUA). With EUA, a vaccine or other treatment can be fast-tracked during a public health crisis. While the process is sped along, vaccines, medication and other therapies given an EUA must still meet rigorous FDA standards.

Source: Krames



The same

