

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE VACCINE

for COVID-19



WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE?

Several COVID-19 vaccines are in development. Vaccines could be ready in late 2020 or early 2021 for some groups of people.

The first doses of COVID-19 vaccine will likely be given to people working in health care and long-term care settings. Other groups that may get some of the early doses include adults with high-risk medical conditions and older adults.



WHY SHOULD I BE VACCINATED?

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is one of the best ways to protect yourself and everyone around you, particularly those who are at increased risk for severe illness. Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it is ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.



HOW WE WILL KNOW IT IS SAFE?

Having a safe and effective vaccine is the top priority. Approving vaccines as safe and making sure they work is up to several scientific groups at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and other groups look at available information about a vaccine and make informed decisions about the risks and benefits of using it.



WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Continue to help slow the spread of COVID-19: Wear a mask, wash your hands often, stay 6 feet away from other people, and stay home if you are sick. Doing all of these things will help keep people healthy until a vaccine is widely available.

For more information contact:

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Sources:
CDC.gov, Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine
health.state.mn.us, COVID-19 Vaccine
11/24/2020

