

DHHS wanted to thank all of the sponsors that supported our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Vaccination site event recently, June 10, 2021. Although we had 14 successfully vaccinated, we were hoping for a bigger turnout. We are happy that the 14 that were vaccinated and helped in preventing the spread of COVID-19!

DHHS is happy to announce that we would like to extend this event! Those of you who received your first vaccination on June 10th will get your second vaccination on July 1. In addition, we are opening up the opportunity for those who haven't been vaccinated, to register for their 1st vaccination at the same location. The second shot would be administered at a local Walgreens store. Interpreters will be available at those registered locations.

Please watch DHHS.IN.GOV for registration links and updates.

We understand that there may be some hesitation to getting vaccinated due to conflicting reports, fake news, and hearsay. We wanted to address some of those misconceptions here:

This information is an excerpt from the Indiana Department of Health's Website:
https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/21_IN%20Vaccine%20effectiveness_6-2.pdf

Experts continue to study the vaccines. A serious reaction to any of the three vaccines is rare. If one does happen, it's reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and studied by medical experts. That's how the risk of rare but serious blood clots with low platelets from Johnson & Johnson vaccine was discovered. It is important to keep in mind the low risk of this rare adverse event compared to the greater risk of getting COVID-19.

Risk of getting blood clots with low platelets from Johnson & Johnson:

- 1 per million for men of all ages and women 50 and older.
- Seven per million for women ages 18-49

Risk of getting blood clots from a COVID-19 infection:

- 165,000 per million

The mRNA vaccines like Pfizer and Moderna have not shown any increased risk of clotting.

What the vaccine doesn't do

- The vaccine won't change your DNA. The vaccine simply teaches our immune system how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response if infected. It doesn't change the make-up of your cell's DNA.
- There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems or problems trying to get pregnant. Although the overall risk of severe illness is low, pregnant people are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 when compared with non-pregnant people. Additionally, pregnant individuals with COVID-19 might be at increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as preterm birth, compared with pregnant women without COVID-19.
- The vaccines don't contain a microchip or any other sort of device. It is not a tracking mechanism.

- A COVID-19 vaccine can't make you sick with COVID-19. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- After you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you won't test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection. If your body develops an immune response to vaccination, you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some protection against the virus.
- The vaccine provides protection even if you've had COVID-19. The odds of getting COVID-19 again increases with time as natural immunity decreases. Variant viruses (such as the B.1.1.7 variant or B.1.1.28 variant) has been reported in several countries. Vaccination can help reduce the chances of both reinfection and infection from a COVID-19 variant strain.
- An allergic reaction to the vaccine is rare. The CDC recommends that people get vaccinated even if they have a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications — such as food, pet, venom, environmental, or latex allergies. People with a history of allergies to oral medications or a family history of severe allergic reactions may also get vaccinated. Risk of an anaphylactic reaction has been reported to be 2.5-5 per million. Talk with your healthcare provider about your concerns.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO www.DHHS.IN.GOV for the “Coronavirus flyer” from Department of Health.

We hope this information helps you to make a more informed decision about the COVID-19 vaccine.
Come on Deaf/Hoh Hoosiers TAKE THE SHOT!