Prisoners in the U.S. have had COVID-19

Do your part to decrease the spread of COVID-19 by getting vaccinated. It is safe and effective.

COVID-19 is a public health crisis and it is essential for you to do your part by getting vaccinated to help put an end to this.

Source: https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/18/1-in-5-prisoners-in-the-u-s-has-had-covid-19
COVID-19 Vaccine

MYTHS vs. FACTS

**MYTH:** The COVID-19 vaccine will give me COVID-19.

**FACT:** The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain the virus itself. It relies on a harmless segment of the virus to spur the production of antibodies.

**MYTH:** We can’t trust COVID-19 vaccines because they were rushed and not properly tested.

**FACT:** Researchers have been working on this vaccine technology for over 30 years. The COVID-19 vaccine has been rigorously tested and approved safe and effective by the FDA.

**MYTH:** I already had COVID-19 so I won’t benefit from the vaccine.

**FACT:** People who’ve had COVID-19 do develop protective antibodies, but these will not last especially if you had a mild case. Best way to protect yourself is by getting the vaccine.

**MYTH:** Once I take the vaccine, my life can go back to normal.

**FACT:** It takes several weeks after your second shot of the vaccine to develop antibodies that protect you against the virus.

**MYTH:** Since the COVID-19 survival rate is so high, I don’t need to get the vaccine.

**FACT:** Although most people who get COVID-19 are able to recover, many develop severe complications. So far, more than 1.7 million people around the world have died from COVID-19.

**MYTH:** Now that we have the vaccines, the pandemic will be over very soon.

**FACT:** In order to achieve what’s called herd immunity – the point at which the disease is no longer likely to spread – about 70% of the population will need to have been vaccinated or infected.

Why YOU should get vaccinated

For you and your community – both your prison community and your family and friends in the public community.

Vaccines are safe and effective. The current vaccines available are 95% effective. You gain protection without having to risk the consequences of COVID-19.

You will decrease the possibility of enduring long term health effects if you were to get COVID-19.

This will allow you to return to normal operations and programming within your facility. Increased herd immunity and vaccinations will protect the larger community, allowing more activities to return to normal.
Why should YOU consider getting vaccinated?

We understand there are concerns with receiving a new vaccine and some may not trust the vaccine. However, we believe it is essential that you have accurate information in order to guide your decision making.

1. **Living in a correctional setting puts you at high risk to contract the virus.** Prisons are spaces where social distancing is not always easy. The combination of wearing masks, proper hygiene and getting vaccinated will help decrease the spread within your institutions. This will help to keep you and those that live around you safe.

2. **Your race and ethnicity may impact how COVID-19 affects you.** Data has shown that Hispanic, Black, American Indian and Asian persons have higher rates of transmission, hospitalization and death. By accepting the vaccine you may lower your risk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalization, and Deaths, by Race/Ethnicity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate ratios compared to White, Non-Hispanic persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Race and ethnicity are risk markers for other underlying conditions that affect health, including socioeconomic status, access to health care, and exposure to the virus related to occupations, e.g., among frontline, essential, and critical infrastructure workers.


3. **Older people are more at risk for serious illness.** Individuals age 50 and up have higher rates of death if contracting the virus.

4. **Some may be resistant to vaccinate due to the 99% survival rate of COVID-19.** However, surviving the virus and thriving after contracting it are two different things. COVID-19 symptoms have persisted in young and healthy individuals for weeks and months after infection. Organs such as the heart, lungs and brain have shown lasting damage which can lead to further health complications in the future.

5. **Short term side effects of a vaccine with 95% efficacy outweigh the long term health damage from a COVID-19 infection.**
Think about yourself and others

- Take the time to get the vaccine. Better days are ahead of you if you protect yourself against COVID-19.
- COVID-19 has long term side effects and medical complications, even with a high recovery rate.
- Make sure you understand the benefits of the vaccine so that you may continue to live a life that is healthy and well for you and your family.
- The minimal short term side effects of receiving the vaccine are far less risky than the complications of a COVID-19 infection.
Do your part to help stop the spread of COVID-19

Three Reasons why you were given top priority to be vaccinated against COVID-19

1. You are on the front lines and risk being exposed to people with COVID-19 each day on the job.
2. Protecting you also helps protect others, especially those who may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
3. You matter. And you play an essential role in keeping your community healthy.

Lead the way!
Encourage your coworkers, inmates, family and friends to get vaccinated.

✅ You were made a priority, so make it your priority to get the vaccine!

✅ Vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect yourself and those around you.

Source: https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/12/18/1-in-5-prisoners-in-the-u-s-has-had-covid-19

Commonwealth Medicine
Questions and answers about the COVID-19 vaccine

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials and allows emergency vaccine use only when the expected benefits is more than the potential risks. COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trials to make sure they met strict safety standards. More than 70,000 people have participated in these trials to see how the vaccines offer protection to people of different ages, races, and backgrounds, as well as those with different underlying medical conditions.

How does the vaccine work?
After receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, your body will learn how to protect itself if you were to be exposed to someone infected with COVID-19. Like all vaccines, anyone who is vaccinated gains this protection without ever having to risk the serious consequences of getting sick with COVID-19.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?
No. The COVID-19 vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. While you might feel minor, short-term side effects from the vaccine, it is impossible to contract the virus from the vaccine.

What should I expect when receiving the vaccine?
The COVID-19 vaccine requires two shots, both administered in the upper arm muscle. The first shot starts building protection, but everyone needs to receive the second shot 28 days later to ensure they get the most protection the vaccine can offer. This is like other vaccines like Hepatitis B which require two doses. All vaccines are being administered in accordance with Department of Public Health (DPH) standards.

Can I still spread the virus even after getting vaccinated?
We do not yet know whether vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others who may not have received the vaccine. That is why it will be important that everyone continues to take precautions, including wearing masks, using proper hand hygiene, and social distancing. There is optimistic data from the clinical trials that vaccination will stop the spread of COVID-19 but it will take more time to know for sure.

What if I decide not to get the vaccine?
It is your choice to receive or not receive the COVID-19 Vaccine. Should you decide not to receive it, it will not change your standard medical care.
How will I Feel after taking the vaccine?
Some people who get a COVID-19 vaccine will experience side effects, particularly after the second dose. The side effects of the vaccine appear to be minor and temporary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Common Reported Side Effects:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Injection site reaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tiredness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Muscle and Joint pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Chills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fever</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These side effects are called an "immune response." This is a response without infection and it's a good thing! These short-term, easily managed side effects mean that the vaccine is working. They are significantly less risky than taking your chances with COVID-19 infection. These side effects fade within 1-2 days. These side effects are common with all vaccines.

Are there any long-term side effects?
COVID-19 vaccines are still being tested for long-term side effects. At this point, no long-term safety issues have been detected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are monitoring closely and as more people get vaccinated, additional information will be available in the coming weeks and months. CDC scientists and medical professionals will be continuously reviewing vaccine safety. They will keep providing information to the public and will act on new safety concerns if needed.

We are still learning about COVID-19 vaccines, here is what we do know for sure: getting sick with COVID-19 is dangerous. We know that COVID-19 can cause long-term health problems, even in mild cases. It is unlikely that we will find any vaccine-related side effects that are riskier than having COVID-19.

I have a pre-existing condition. Will taking the vaccine have harmful effects?
We do not yet know for certain how individuals with different pre-existing conditions will react to the vaccine. It is clear, however, that those with other health complications are at a higher risk for complications of COVID-19 infection. If you have a pre-existing condition, you should consult your doctor on what is best for you.

I already had COVID-19, do I still need a vaccine?
Yes, the vaccine is recommended for individuals who have recovered from COVID-19. In the clinical trial, 10% of the participants already had COVID-19 and receiving the vaccine appeared beneficial. People who have recovered from the infection may not have long lasting immunity and could become reinfected.

How long after does an individual who has recovered from COVID-19 need to wait to get the vaccine?
They can get the vaccine right away after their recovery. Recovery is defined as 10 days after the diagnosis for mild to moderate infections and 20 days after the diagnosis for severe infections.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine free?
You will not have to pay for the vaccine. The vaccine is free. You will not be charged any copay to receive the vaccine. If you experience side effects and need to submit a sick slip following the vaccine, you will not be charged for these visits as well.