COVID-19 VACCINE

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER NETWORK

WHY:

The COVID-19 vaccine, like all vaccines, teaches your body to fight against a germ that causes disease. Other common vaccines protect you from flu, pneumonia, and tetanus. We can successfully slow the spread of COVID-19 when 70% to 80% of people are vaccinated.

WHAT:

Like most vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine will be a shot in your arm or another big muscle. You will need two shots – the first shot starts building your body's immunity to COVID-19 and the second shot is a "booster" to increase protection against COVID-19. The second shot must be given weeks after the first shot.

WHO:

People 65 and older and some essential workers are getting vaccinated. In the coming weeks and months, you too will be able to get vaccinated. All adults should get vaccinated. People who have had allergic reactions to vaccines or other injections in the past should ask their healthcare provider. You cannot get the vaccine if you currently have COVID-19.

HOW:
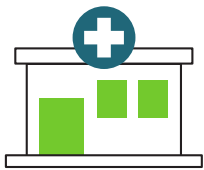
Your health clinic will contact you to schedule an appointment when you are able to get vaccinated. After you get your COVID-19 shot, your health clinic will watch you for 15 minutes to make sure you do not have an allergic reaction. Then, your health clinic will tell you when to come back for your second shot. Immunity – when your body can fight COVID-19 – will be at least 1-2 weeks after the second shot.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Like with other shots, you may feel sore, tired, achy, and possibly feverish the day of and after the COVID-19 shot. These symptoms mean your body is building protection against COVID-19. Most symptoms will go away in 2 days. You may feel more symptoms after the second shot. You need two shots for full protection. Remember, after you get the vaccine, you STILL have to wear masks, keep physical distance and wash your hands.

SAFETY:

Approved vaccines prevent new COVID-19 infections and are safe. In clinical trials, people who got the vaccine were less likely to get sick from COVID-19 or be hospitalized than people who didn't get the vaccine. The vaccines have been tested on thousands of people and no serious safety concerns have arisen.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your clinic provider.