COVID-19 Vaccine
Information for Older Adults

The COVID-19 vaccine is coming! You may need to receive two doses of the vaccine; please check with your healthcare provider or local health department. The vaccine will be available at no cost.

WHY SHOULD I TAKE THE VACCINE?

Older adults have a higher risk for severe illness and hospitalization if they get COVID-19. Research has demonstrated that the vaccine is 95% effective in preventing COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe.

IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine was tested with thousands of participants to generate scientific data and other information in order to determine its safety and to get approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

SIDE EFFECTS

Short-term side effects are mild and may include fever, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, chills and sore arms. They will go away in a few days, but they are normal and a sign your body is working to build up protection against the virus.

MYTH VS FACT
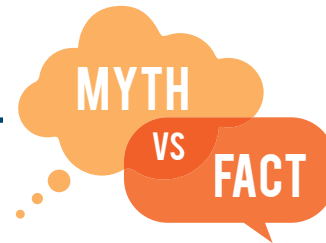
MYTH: If I get vaccinated for COVID-19 I'll be more vulnerable to other illnesses.

FACT: While the COVID-19 vaccine will work to teach your immune system to recognize and protect against coronavirus, it is not proven to make you vulnerable to other illnesses.

MYTH: After I get the vaccine, I no longer have to wear a mask.

FACT: While health experts learn more about the protection of COVID-19 vaccines, it will be important for everyone to continue to wear a mask, wash hands often, and practice social distancing.

Contact your local health department to ask about COVID-19 vaccination in your area:
http://www.idph.state.il.us/LHDMap/HealthRegions.aspx

Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19 vaccine site:
http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq

For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois' response and guidance,
call 1-800-889-3931 or email DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV.