COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

"I was nervous to take the vaccine, because I heard a lot of rumors. But with COVID, you can lose your life. I learned that the vaccine is safe and I will receive it soon."
– Dabora Pech, Hospital Assistant, HMC
AFSCME Council 28/WFSE Member | Scheduled to be vaccinated
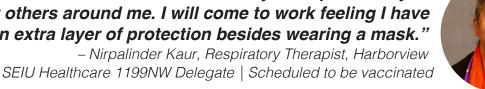
Q: How do we know that the vaccine is safe?

A: The U.S. vaccine safety system works to make sure that vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine, are safe. They conduct clinical trials and extensive vaccine safety monitoring, so that experts can immediately respond to any unexpected effects that arise. According to the Mayo Clinic, over 40,000 people were vaccinated during clinical trials.

Experts agree that none of the COVID-19 vaccines can give you COVID-19, because they do not use live COVID-19 virus. The vaccines can cause symptoms like fever or chills, but these are normal symptoms.

Source: Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines (CDC) https://bit.ly/CDCvaccineinfo

"I am very hopeful with this vaccine that not only I can protect myself but also protect others around me. I will come to work feeling I have an extra layer of protection besides wearing a mask."
– Nirpalinder Kaur, Respiratory Therapist, Harborview
SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Delegate | Scheduled to be vaccinated

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"The vaccine will help protect ourselves and our community. We need to spread the word that it's good for our community. We need more people to get the vaccination."
– *Myo Thant, Patient Care Technician, UW Medical Center Montlake*
AFSCME Council 28/WFSE Member Leader | Early vaccine recipient

Q: What if I feel concerned getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Some people won't be able to get the vaccine due to medical reasons. If you have a history of serious allergic reactions or are immune-compromised, ask your doctor first.

Workers from communities of color who have been subjected to healthcare discrimination and unethical medical practices in the past may be wary of the vaccine. Researchers know they have much work to do to build trust with Black and Indigenous Americans.

COVID-19 is infecting three times more Black and Indigenous people than white people in Washington. We must protect communities of color and the vaccine is an important safety measure.

Source: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccine (WA Department of Health) http://CovidVaccineWA.org

"Vaccines don't save lives, vaccinations do. I trust the science behind the COVID-19 vaccine. I've scheduled my vaccinations and so should you."
– *Terisa Schooley, Clinical Lab Technician processing COVID tests*
SEIU 925 Member | Scheduled to be vaccinated

Q: Why must as many people as possible get the COVID vaccine?

A: The COVID vaccine protects you, but it can also help protect your family, community, and everyone in the U.S.

According to the Mayo Clinic, herd immunity is when enough of the population becomes immune to a disease and it cannot easily spread. If we wait for natural infections to lead to herd immunity, many more people will suffer and die. Hospitals will be even more overwhelmed.

Vaccination means more people can become immune safely. Some people have medical conditions that prevent them from getting the vaccine, but the rest of us can help by getting the vaccine as soon as it's available to us.

Source: Herd immunity and COVID-19 (Mayo Clinic) https://bit.ly/vaxprotects

"The COVID pandemic has resulted in over 300,000 American deaths. I am thankful to the scientists that worked tirelessly to create this safe and effective vaccine and encourage everyone to receive it."
– *Dr. Tim Kelly, Psychiatry Resident, UW*
Resident & Fellow Physician Union Member | Scheduled to be vaccinated

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