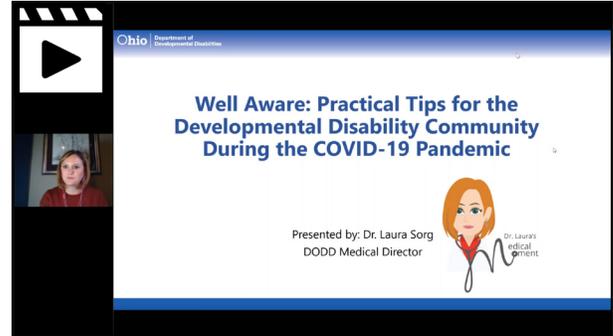




Know the Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccine

We know there is a lot of information out there about the vaccines and we want you to make an informed decision. Please take time to learn the facts from reputable sources like the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).



[Watch: COVID-19 Vaccine Myths vs. Facts](#)

<p>Who should get the COVID-19 Vaccine?</p>	<p>It is highly recommended that all healthcare workers get vaccinated against COVID-19 when available.</p>	
<p>What side effects may occur?</p>	<p>Like with many other vaccines, side effects are minimal. You may experience some pain and redness at the injection site. Other common side effects may include fatigue, fever, chills and headache. Most symptoms resolve within a day or sooner.</p>	
<p>How many doses do I need?</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Most COVID-19 vaccines require two doses to reach their full effectiveness, including the two currently authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).</p>
<p>Is the COVID-19 Vaccine safe?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Both COVID-19 vaccines were well tolerated in over 70,000 participants with no serious adverse events reported. The FDA requires close monitoring and reporting of all adverse events as part of the on-going vaccine administration process.</p>
<p>Will the COVID-19 Vaccine work?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Both vaccines authorized by the FDA have shown to be greater than 94% effective in preventing a COVID-19 infection. This was seen across all ages, genders, races and ethnicities. If you do get infected, the vaccine may also reduce your risk of getting a severe COVID-19 infection.</p>

Additional Resources:

[Plain Language Guide for Talking about the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[What COVID Means for DSPs](#)

[DODD Support Team](#)

[The Facts About COVID-19 Vaccines for DSPs Webinar](#)

Ohio's Vaccination Program
Phase 1B
Ohioans with severe congenital, developmental, or early-onset medical disorders

During the initial rollout of vaccinations for the individuals with congenital, early-onset, and inherited conditions, individuals must have a developmental or intellectual disability and *one of the following conditions*:

- Cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- Severe congenital heart disease requiring hospitalization within the past year
- Severe type 1 diabetes requiring hospitalization within the past year
- Inherited metabolic disorders, including phenylketonuria
- Severe neurological disorders, including epilepsy, hydrocephaly, and microcephaly
- Severe genetic disorders, including Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Turner syndrome and muscular dystrophy
- Severe lung disease, including asthma requiring hospitalization within the past year and cystic fibrosis
- Sickle cell anemia
- Alpha and beta thalassemia
- Solid organ transplants

Logos for Ohio, Mike DeWine Governor of Ohio, Ohio Department of Health, and coronavirus.ohio.gov are also present.

It's important to keep updated on the vaccination roll out program for those you support, you, and your family members. For more information, visit [ODH Vaccine Program](#).

<p>MYTH: You can get COVID-19 from the vaccine.</p>	<p>FACT: None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States use a live COVID-19 virus. This means there is nothing in the vaccine that can cause an infection. When your body responds to the vaccine, you may have a fever or other symptoms. This is NOT an infection, but your immune system working to protect your body against future infection. This is common in many vaccines.</p>
<p>MYTH: The vaccine will make me test positive for COVID-19.</p>	<p>FACT: None of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized will make you test positive for a viral COVID-19 test. These are the tests that can tell if you have a current COVID-19 infection. If your body develops an immune response from the vaccine, you may test positive on an antibody test. These tests show if you have a previous infection and may have protection against the virus in the future.</p>
<p>MYTH: The COVID-19 Vaccine will change my DNA.</p>	<p>FACT: Messenger Ribonucleic Acid, or mRNA, is not able to alter or modify your DNA. Your cells use mRNA as a template to build proteins outside of the cell nucleus where all your DNA is stored. A mRNA vaccine delivers instructions to your cell to make a harmless virus protein to tell your immune system to activate but will never enter the cell's nucleus. Once the protein is made, the vaccine mRNA is broken down by the cell.</p>
<p>MYTH: Side effects from the COVID-19 Vaccine are worse than the infection.</p>	<p>FACT: If you are infected with COVID-19, there is no way to know how bad your symptoms will be. If symptoms become severe, it may result in hospitalization or even death. Sometimes symptoms of a COVID-19 infection can last up to 3 months. To date, over 1.64 million people worldwide have died from COVID-19. Side effects may occur from the COVID-19 vaccine and may be like symptoms of a mild COVID-19 infection. These include headache, muscle ache and fever and will subside in a day or so. For most people, symptoms of COVID-19 will be worse and last longer than side effects from the vaccine.</p>

Tables have been adapted from Lima Memorial Hospital to include the most accurate and up to date information.