



COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points

A vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is the best hope for ending the pandemic.

- In the United States, there is currently no authorized or approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19, but researchers are urgently working to create one.
- We will all need to continue some preventative measures such as wearing masks, social distancing, and handwashing to reduce the spread of COVID in our communities.

There is a proven process for developing vaccines.

- The goal of the vaccine-approval process is to end up with a vaccine that is effective (the vaccine works in preventing the illness) and safe (there are no serious side effects or other problems).
- In the United States, this process has produced safe and effective vaccines for the flu, polio, measles, mumps, pertussis and more. The process has saved millions of people from getting sick and dying.

While scientists worldwide are working to develop a COVID-19 vaccine faster than any vaccine before, they are still following the proven process because there can be no shortcuts to safety.

- COVID-19 vaccine approval will be a medical and scientific approval based entirely on safety and effectiveness data, with any and all political pressure rejected.
- Past research on vaccines has identified potential successful approaches which has reduced the development time for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Many vaccines are being developed and tested, but some might be ready before others.

- The significant impact of COVID-19 has led to unprecedented, worldwide collaboration among scientists, medical doctors, health and government officials, and manufacturers.
- CDC is working with partners at all levels of government to plan for different vaccines and scenarios.
- At first, COVID-19 vaccines might be used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

There may be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines before the end of 2020, but supply will continually increase in the months that follow. While there is limited supply, some groups may be recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine first.

- Experts are working on how to distribute these limited vaccines in a fair, ethical, and transparent way. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will make recommendations to the CDC director once a vaccine(s) is authorized or approved for use.
 - The ACIP is a group of medical and public health experts who review data on new and existing vaccines and diseases to make recommendations to the CDC director. ACIP members are selected by the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and include 14 public health experts and one consumer representative.
- At first, COVID-19 vaccines may not be recommended for children. In early clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines, only non-pregnant adults participated. However, clinical trials continue to expand those recruited to participate. The groups recommended to receive the vaccines could change in the future.
- The COVID-19 vaccine will likely be free or low-cost for Michiganders.

A COVID-19 vaccine, once available, will be part of how we in Michigan spread hope, not COVID.

- Our best protection from COVID-19 will be to complete the vaccine series, once it is available.

If you have questions about vaccines, make sure to seek a trusted source with answers based on medical science.

- There's a lot of media coverage and speculation around when a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccines will be available and how they will work.
- If/when a vaccine is available and if you are eligible to receive it, talk to a health care providers about the benefits and potential risks of getting the vaccine and your medical history.
- Sources for vaccine information based entirely on medical science include [I Vaccinate.org](https://www.ivaccinate.org), the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.michigan.gov/dhhs), and the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov).

Sources:

- I Vaccinate: <https://ivaccinate.org/vaccinations-during-covid-19>
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/making-vaccines/prevent-covid>
- CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- HHS: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/strategy-for-distributing-covid-19-vaccine.pdf>