Safety of vaccines is a top priority. The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. The vaccines being used now have gone through large clinical trials. The Centers for Disease Control is monitoring and rapidly detecting any safety issues with COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccine will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You need two doses of the currently available COVID-19 vaccine. A second shot three weeks after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease.

After the COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. Millions of people have been vaccinated already and serious side effects are rare. There can be pain in the upper arm, fatigue, headache, and in a small number of cases, fever or chills. Side effects are generally resolved within 48 hours. These side effects are a sign of an immune system kicking into gear. They do not signal that the vaccine is unsafe.

There is no cost to receive the vaccine. Vaccine doses are purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars and are being given to the American people at no cost.

If you have been vaccinated, you must continue to cover your mouth and nose with a mask, social distance when possible, and wash your hands often. COVID-19 vaccines are only one of many important tools to help us end this pandemic.