



Accessing Reliable Information

As you reach out to support vaccine access and uptake, you're likely to find yourself in need of reliable information about COVID-19 vaccines – whether the information is for yourself or to share with others. This document is intended to provide you with reliable resources for and answers to some of the most common questions you may encounter.

First, the following sources are a good bet for getting answers to COVID-19 vaccine questions.

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 information hub	Includes a wealth of information about COVID vaccines, including how to find appointments
Mayo Clinic COVID vaccines FAQs	Premier health center lists FAQs with succinct answers
Greater Than COVID	Black and Latinx health care workers answer common questions about COVID vaccines
Christians and the Vaccine	Equips Evangelical and other Christian leaders with biblical principles supportive of COVID vaccination
Find your Department of Public Health	Links to the Departments of Public Health in all U.S. states and territories

Second, our expert partners from Rush University, [Dr. Tanya Sorrell](#), [Ms. Karen Graham](#), and [Dr. Elizabeth Davis](#), have been extremely generous in answering many of your COVID-vaccine-related questions. You will find live/recorded answers* to the following questions by clicking the linked timestamps below and then moving to that time in the video. Please feel free to share this resource widely.

Vaccine Development

How were COVID-19 vaccines developed? How did it happen so quickly? ([9:02](#)) ([2:40](#))

Is mRNA technology new technology? ([7:49](#))

The 3 U.S.-Approved Vaccines

At this point [on May 17, 2021], what are some things we know about COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination? ([6:10](#))

How do we know COVID-19 vaccines are effective? How do we know they're safe? ([15:37](#))

*These responses were recorded on April 30 and May 17, 2021.

How do the vaccines actually work? Why do I need two shots [with the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines]? Why does the second shot sometimes cause more side effects (like fever or fatigue)? ([19:11](#)) ([11:17](#))

How is the Johnson & Johnson vaccine different from the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines? How concerned should I be about the blood clot issues that have been associated with the J&J vaccine? ([23:51](#))

Does it matter which COVID vaccine I get? ([37:06](#))

After I get vaccinated, how long am I protected? ([22:01](#))

Vaccine Side Effects

How concerned should I be about side effects? ([17:24](#))

Do we know why some people have side effects after vaccination and some don't? ([14:30](#))

Should I be concerned if I don't have any side effects after vaccination? ([15:58](#))

Vaccine Concerns

How should we be thinking about the risks associated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine? How do we talk to people about the safety of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine? ([23:55](#))

Should I be concerned about getting vaccinated if I'm on medication? ([19:40](#))

Do the vaccines affect fertility? ([33:35](#))

How were fetal cells used in COVID-19 vaccine development? ([29:27](#))

Do I have to pay for the vaccine? Do I need health insurance? Do I need an ID or social security number? Do I need to be a citizen? ([32:37](#)) ([36:35](#))

What are some measures health authorities are taking to ensure vaccines are safe? ([26:35](#))

Vaccine Variants

What's the difference between some of the COVID virus variants that I'm hearing about? Do the current vaccines protect against all of them? ([35:04](#)) ([32:16](#))

How are the newer COVID-19 variants different than the original COVID-19 virus? ([23:00](#))

What do we know about how long the vaccines will protect us and how well they work against the virus variants? ([17:43](#))

Vaccine Need

Do I need to get vaccinated if I've already gotten COVID-19? ([38:39](#))

Vaccine Outreach

What's your best advice for helping people understand and get access to the vaccine? ([32:21](#))

ABOUT OUR GUESTS

Elizabeth Davis, MD, Rush University Medical Group

Dr. Davis is the medical director of community health equity at Rush University Medical Center, where she leads programs on community COVID-19 vaccine and testing. Dr. Davis also works on medical care for those with housing insecurity and in nursing facilities. She also leads vaccination partnerships with faith-based communities around Chicago, where she also works on COVID-19 testing and vaccination. Outside of the pandemic, Dr. Davis heads Rush's home-based primary care initiatives, where she makes old-fashioned house calls for those who are home-bound.

Karen Graham, Manager of Research Education, Rush University Alzheimer's Disease Center

Karen Lowe Graham, MA, is the manager of research education at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center. She is responsible for developing and implementing recruitment and education activities of the RADC. She develops and manages relationships with key partners and stakeholders — including working with representatives of the RADC, local elected officials and various members and leaders of numerous targeted communities and overseeing community engagement efforts and related communications. She works in close partnership with other core groups in the aging field. This includes acting as a liaison between communities of color and the RADC. In this role, she contributes to strategically planning effective means of translating findings of the center's studies into practical applications and programming for communities of color. In addition to these duties, she is the chair of the Education Committee of the RADC. Karen has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in psychology from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Karen holds several leadership positions in aging organizations locally and nationally.

Tanya Sorrell, PhD, PMHNP-BC, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Rush University & Assistant Director of the Great Lakes NIH NIDA Clinical Trials Network node

Dr. Tanya Sorrell is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry, and Assistant Director of the Great Lakes NIH NIDA Clinical Trials Network node, recently joining Rush University from the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, College of Nursing. Her doctoral training is in rural and urban underserved Mental Health and Substance use services research, with a minor in Complementary and Integrative Behavioral Health practices for Latino groups. Trilingual in English, Spanish, and French, she helped to develop and taught a graduate nursing course in Cultural Competence in Psychiatric assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for all CU F/Psych NPs, and provided course content/lectures to other RN/NP students in mental health and cultural competency throughout the CON curricula. Her clinical and education work led to state and national accolades as she serves on national SAMHSA committees for Cultural Competence in Nursing Care and the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program Advisory Group. She is a consultant and the past PI of a \$5 million state-wide Colorado Legislative funded Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services Program, a project to increase substance use treatment services with 40 agencies in 17 rural Colorado counties. They've served over 1500 clients so far and have amended their services with creative strategies to reach clients during COVID-19. New clinical research at Rush will include improving Latino health outcomes through cultural care strategies for Substance Use Treatment. Her publication record reflects her interests in increasing cultural humility behavioral outcomes in graduate clinical providers and translational research interests in behavioral health care and services utilization using culturally- based approaches to improve the overall behavioral health/substance outcomes of rural/urban under-served populations.