COVID-19 VACCINE FACTS TO KNOW

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?
- The COVID-19 vaccine protects you from getting sick with COVID-19.
- Depending on which vaccine you get, it comes in either one shot or two shots. For the two dose vaccines (Moderna or Pfizer), after your first shot, you will get the second shot in 3-4 weeks.
- You need to wait 2 weeks after your second shot to be fully protected from COVID-19.

How does the vaccine work?
- COVID-19 vaccine uses mRNA, which teaches your body to safely build protection against COVID-19.
- mRNA does not change your genes (DNA) because the mRNA cannot affect your DNA.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?
- Yes! The COVID-19 vaccines have been tested in trials and the data continues to show that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and they work.
- How can we know it is safe and works if it was produced so fast?
  Scientists have been working with mRNA vaccines for more than a decade and were able to quickly apply them to the COVID-19 virus. Extra money from the federal government allowed them to work faster, but without skipping any steps.

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make you sick with COVID?
- No! COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the virus. This means the vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.
- The vaccine teaches our bodies to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. You may have mild symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms show that your body is building immunity.

Why is it important to get the COVID-19 vaccine?
- The vaccines are highly effective at preventing COVID-19 and reduces your chances of getting critically sick from COVID-19. Being vaccinated will help keep others safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What if I can't afford the vaccine?
- The vaccine is free! Some online appointment systems may ask you for your insurance information, but even if you don't have insurance, you can get the vaccine.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccine clinics in your area please see below:

Baltimore City: coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax or call 443-984-8650
Baltimore County: baltimorecountymd.gov/vaccine or call 410-887-3816
Carroll County: cchd.maryland.gov or call 410-876-4848

For general information call 2-1-1
For medical emergencies please call 9-1-1

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