The vaccine is available at no cost. **For more information, we recommend you talk with your primary care physician to find out when you will be eligible to receive it and how to access it.**

**WHY SHOULD I TAKE THE VACCINE?**

Research has demonstrated that the vaccine is 95% effective in preventing COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe. In particular, older adults have a higher risk for severe illness and hospitalization if they get COVID-19.

**IS THE VACCINE SAFE?**

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine was tested with thousands of participants to generate scientific data and other information in order to determine its safety and to get approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

**SIDE EFFECTS**

Short-term side effects are mild and may include fever, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, chills and sore arms. They will go away in a few days, but they are normal and a sign your body is working to build up protection against the virus.

**MYTH VS FACT**

**MYTH:** If I get vaccinated for COVID-19 I’ll be more vulnerable to other illnesses.

**FACT:** While the COVID-19 vaccine will work to teach your immune system to recognize and protect against coronavirus, it is not proven to make you vulnerable to other illnesses.

**MYTH:** After I get the vaccine, I no longer have to wear a mask.

**FACT:** While health experts learn more about the protection of COVID-19 vaccines, it will be important for everyone to continue to wear a mask, wash hands often, and practice social distancing.

You can also contact your local health department to ask about COVID-19 vaccination in your area: [http://www.idph.state.il.us/LHDMap/HealthRegions.aspx](http://www.idph.state.il.us/LHDMap/HealthRegions.aspx)

Illinois Department of Public Health COVID-19 vaccine site: [http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq](http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq)

For general questions about COVID-19 and Illinois’ response and guidance, call 1-800-889-3931 or email [DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV](mailto:DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV).