



Vaccinate Clayton Town Hall Meeting – March 24th 2022 @ 2:00PM

1. What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2.

2. How does the virus spread?

COVID-19 is spread in three main ways:

- Breathing in air when close to an infected person who is exhaling small droplets and particles that contain the virus.
- Having these small droplets and particles that contain virus land on the eyes, nose, or mouth, especially through splashes and sprays like a cough or sneeze.
- Touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have the virus on them.

3. How can someone prevent getting COVID-19?

- Get Vaccinated and stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Wear a mask
- Stay 6 feet away from others
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces and crowds
- Test to prevent spread to others
- Wash your hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect
- Monitor your health daily
- Follow recommendations for quarantine
- Follow recommendations for isolation
- Take precautions when you travel

4. What are the recommendations for someone who has symptoms of COVID-19?

- Stay at home (except to get tested or to get medical care)
- Wear a well-fitting mask around other people for 10 days
- Do not travel for 10 days
- Separate yourself from others
- Monitor your symptoms
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Wash your hands often
- Clean surfaces in your home regularly
- Avoid sharing personal household items



5. What should someone do if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19?

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and do not have symptoms.

6. Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19?

Vaccinating children ages 5 years and older can help protect them from getting COVID-19, spreading the virus to others, and getting sick if they do get infected. While COVID-19 tends to be milder in children than adults, it can make children very sick, requires hospitalization, and some children have even died.

7. If I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. People who are pregnant should stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, including getting a COVID-19 booster shot when it's time to get one.

8. Are COVID-19 vaccines safe even though the vaccines were developed rapidly?

COVID-19 vaccines have been developed without compromising quality, safety, and effectiveness.

9. How long does protection from a COVID-19 vaccine last?

We still don't know exactly how long protection from COVID-19 vaccines lasts, but current data indicates that most people have strong protection against serious illness and death for at least 6 months. There is increasing evidence that the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination against infection and mild symptoms can wane over time. In light of this, it is advised that booster doses are offered to people 4-6 months after the primary series of vaccination is completed. A booster dose should be taken when offered, to strengthen protection against serious illness and death from COVID-19.



10. If I didn't get my second shot of a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine within the recommended time, what should I do?

You should get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible. However, if you receive your second shot of COVID-19 vaccine at any time after the recommended date, you do not have to restart the vaccine series.

11. Should I get vaccinated if I have already had COVID-19?

Because it's possible to get reinfected and COVID-19 can cause severe medical complications, the CDC recommends that people who have already had COVID-19 get a COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, COVID-19 vaccination might offer better protection than getting sick with COVID-19.

12. Are at-home tests available?

Yes. At-home tests for COVID-19 give rapid results and can be taken anywhere, regardless of your vaccination status or whether or not you have symptoms.

How to get an at-home test kit:

- Order 4 free at-home tests per household at [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). or call [Call 1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233)
- Buy at-home tests online or in pharmacies and retail stores.
- If you're not able to obtain an at-home test when you need it, visit a community testing site or call your local health department for more options.

13. How does vaccination protect you and your community?

- Vaccinations protect you by reducing the risk of hospitalization and death
- Reduces chances of getting "long COVID"
- Protects your community by reducing transmission, therefore, protecting children and seniors.

14. Why is getting a high rate of vaccination important in Clayton County?

Clayton County has a large percentage of individuals who are at high risk for severe complications of COVID.

- High-risk factors include diabetes, obesity, and hypertension.
- Having a high vaccination rate protects these individuals and increases the health and wellness of all Clayton County citizens.
- Right now, Clayton County has a 48 percent vaccination rate for the second dose and the State of Georgia has a rate of 55 percent. We can do better.

15. Isn't COVID over? Why should I vaccinate now?

- No, it is not. Even when we transition from a pandemic to an endemic we will need to be vaccinated.
- This will become something we have to manage as we move forward.
- COVID is a deadly virus and people will continue to get sick and die.
- Vaccinations will help decrease those numbers.



16. Will vaccinations against COVID become yearly?

- We are still in a pandemic and the primary goal is to control the pandemic.
- It is highly likely, as this moves forward and into the phase of endemic, it will be similar to the annual flu shot.

17. What is an mRNA vaccine? Are there other types of vaccines like this?

- mRNA is based on technology that has existed for over twenty years and required extensive cold chain management which was not widely available until this pandemic.
- mRNA Messenger RNA exists in all cells of your body.
- This vaccine utilizes a small percentage of the spike protein to mimic the COVID 19 virus.
- Not currently but there is enormous development on vaccines from HIV to Cancer.

18. Does vaccination protect against long COVID?

Absolutely, those who are vaccinated have less risk of getting long COVID. Long Covid can be devastating and include neurological and cardiac complications.

19. People are getting COVID who are vaccinated...does it really do anything?

Yes, it does. There is a 90 percent protection rate against hospitalization and death compared to those unvaccinated. There is also significant protection against getting long COVID. Those who are vaccinated are also doing their part to protect our community and reduce transmission.

20. How can you protect employees from COVID-19?

- Remind employees that people may be able to spread COVID-19 even if they do not show symptoms.
- Consider all close interactions (within 6 feet) with employees, clients, and others as a potential source of exposure. Discourage handshaking, hugs, and fist bumps.
- Encourage the use of outdoor seating areas and social distancing for any small-group activities such as lunches, breaks, and meetings.

21. What is Clayton County doing to make sure the public is safe?

Clayton County has provided test kits to county residents and requires all individuals to wear a mask in all county facilities.

22. Will the county be hosting another home test kit distribution event? If so, will there be more than two tests given per household? Yes, the county is planning to host another distribution event. The number of test kits provided to each family will depend on the supply.

23. Will the public ever be required to be vaccinated to enter county facilities? No, not at this time.

24. In the future will county employees be required to be vaccinated? No, not at this time.