

# COVID-19 Vaccinations

## ***Why are we concerned about the public getting the COVID-19 vaccination?***

Getting vaccinated is important because it makes it less likely that you will spread the virus to others. The vaccine also helps your body build immunity so you are less likely to become infected. If you do, your own immune system will be able to fight off infection more easily.



## ***How were the COVID-19 vaccines developed so quickly?***

Scientists had already been studying coronaviruses from the same family as COVID-19. These studies helped give them a jumpstart on understanding how it worked. Increased government funding allowed for much faster testing and production than other vaccines in the past.

## ***How does the vaccine work?***

The COVID-19 vaccine is a messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine that gives instructions to cells to make a piece of “spike protein.” Because the protein doesn’t belong there, your body builds an immune response producing antibodies that help keep you from getting infected if the virus enters your body. COVID-19 vaccines:

- Do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19
- Do not affect or interact with your DNA in any way
- Have passed rigorous safety and effectiveness standards by the FDA.

## ***How can I get a COVID-19 vaccination?***

BRHD is administering COVID-19 vaccine in phases **by appointment only**. Visit [BlueRidgeHD.org](http://BlueRidgeHD.org) to see what phase you’re in and to submit a survey to get on a list for a vaccine.

***For more information:*** [www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine) or [www.blueridgehd.org](http://www.blueridgehd.org)



2/21



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