Key Messages

Copy and paste any of the language below when talking to your community about COVID-19 vaccines and COVID-19 testing. You can also customize the language to make it your own.

Messaging Tips
- At the end of any message, you can include: For more information, visit VaccinateLACounty.com. - Make sure that all links included in emails and on webpages are clickable so that people do not have to type them into their Internet browser. - COVID-19 Vaccine Messaging Tips: Check out these tips from the National Institutes of Health for more information on how to create your own messages about COVID-19 vaccines. - Include quotes from trusted religious leaders or trusted doctors in your congregation who share the importance of vaccines.

General Information

- Vaccines made by Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (J&J) are available in Los Angeles County. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are preferred.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone.
- Vaccines are available to everyone 6 months and older.
- You will not be asked about immigration status. You do not need to be a U.S. Citizen to get a vaccine.
- Insurance is not required.
- No appointment is needed at many locations.
- You do not need to show ID to get a vaccine.

Booster Doses:
- Everyone age 5 and older should get a booster dose. People age 5-17 can only get the Pfizer vaccine.
- People who got Pfizer or Moderna for their original vaccine can get a booster dose at least six months after their second vaccine dose.
- People who got Johnson & Johnson for their original vaccine can get a booster dose at least two months after their single dose.
- People age 18 and older can choose which vaccine to receive as a booster dose. Pfizer and Moderna boosters are preferred over J&J. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about the risks and benefits of a booster, or if you need help deciding which vaccine to get as a booster.
- Booster doses are common for many vaccines. Data shows that protection against COVID-19 might get weaker over time after vaccination. Boosters help make sure protection against COVID-19 lasts as long as possible.
- All vaccines continue to offer strong protection against getting really sick or dying from COVID-19.
- You can get a booster dose at any site in LA County. This includes many places of worship near you.

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- For more information on booster doses, check out this summary.

Doses for Immunocompromised People:
- LA County is offering additional doses of both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to eligible immunocompromised people ages 5 and older.
- Additional (third) doses are different from booster doses. They help people with weakened immune systems build the same protection as most people get from two vaccine doses. They are given as soon as 28 days after the second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
- For more information about doses for immunocompromised people, check out this summary.
- Those who get third doses should get a booster too 6 months after their last dose.

Ensuring Access to Vaccines
- You do **not** need a social security number or government-issued ID to get vaccinated for COVID-19. You will not be asked about your immigration status.
- You do not need a letter from your employer to get a vaccine.
- Your medical information is private and will not be shared with immigration officials.
- You can take paid time off to get your vaccine. For more information, click here.
- You don't need to provide your email address or cell number to get a vaccine and a white CDC COVID-19 vaccination card. But, this may make it harder to get a digital vaccine record later. You can learn more about the digital vaccination record at myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/ and about the confidentiality protections here.

Vaccine Development
- None of the vaccines available in the U.S. contain any fetal cells or tissue.
- The Catholic Church says that it is "morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process."
- Pfizer and Moderna did not use any fetal cell lines to make their COVID-19 vaccines. They used a fetal cell line in laboratory testing, before testing their vaccines on people.
- Johnson & Johnson used a fetal cell line to develop and test their COVID-19 vaccine. They also use it for vaccine production.
- None of the fetal cell lines used came from a recent abortion or an abortion done solely for the purpose of vaccine development. To learn more about fetal cell lines, check out this resource.

Vaccine Safety
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.
- The vaccine is effective at protecting you against serious illness that could lead to hospitalization and death.
- In large studies that involved a diverse mix of people, all 3 vaccines were shown to be safe and

effective at preventing people from getting really sick or dying or from COVID-19.
- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19.
- There are no long term side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine.
- There have been no reports of any deaths, myocarditis or any other side effects in kids of any age and millions of children across the US have been safely vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccines do not impact fertility in men or women. For more information, explore the [Frequently Asked Questions about Pregnancy, Breastfeeding, and Fertility](#).

How to Get Vaccinated
- Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](#) or [VacunateLosAngeles.com](#) to find a vaccine site near you.
- Visit the DPH "[How to Get Vaccinated](#)" web page to find a vaccine site near you.
- If you are unable to leave your home to get a vaccine, the DPH can schedule a home visit for you. For more information, visit VaccinateLACounty.com or call us at 1-(833)-540-0473.
- It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. You are fully vaccinated two weeks after the 2nd dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks after a one-dose vaccine.
- When you get a vaccine, you will be asked to give an email address or mobile phone number. This information will only be used to create a digital COVID-19 vaccine record, and/or to send reminders about other COVID-19 vaccine doses.
- The digital vaccine record is a free and convenient way to prove your vaccination status. It is useful if you lose your white vaccine card.

Vaccine Side Effects
- You may experience flu-like symptoms after vaccination. These are normal and should go away in a few days. Some people experience them, and many people have no symptoms after vaccination. These symptoms are not a reaction to the vaccine but one way of your body letting you know that it is building immunity.
- The most common side effects are pain in the arm where you got the shot, feeling tired, headache, body aches, chills, and fever.
- For more information, visit the DPH [Vaccine Side Effects](#) page.

Why Vaccines are Important
- Getting the vaccine is the moral thing to do when there are so many lives at stake.
- Get vaccinated to show your love for our neighbor and our God.
- Deaths from COVID-19 are preventable. Get vaccinated to protect your community.
- The COVID-19 vaccine will help keep you from getting really sick or dying from COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated protects you and the people around you, especially people who are very likely to

get really sick if they get COVID-19. This includes grandparents and other elders in your life, or people with underlying health conditions.

- COVID-19 vaccines are the safest way to protect yourself. Getting a vaccine is a safer way to build protection than natural immunity.
- COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you and no way of knowing what the long term effects of COVID-19 are. If you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you.
- Some people who have had COVID-19 have long term side effects from COVID-19 like fatigue and brain fog. There is no way of knowing who can get long COVID.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe illness from COVID-19, and people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may start to do some things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

COVID-19 Testing

- You can get a COVID-19 test in your neighborhood at churches, parks, and other locations near you. Testing is free for everyone, regardless of immigration or insurance status.
- If you experience moderate to severe symptoms of COVID-19 you should get a free COVID-19 test as soon as possible, even if you are fully vaccinated and boosted.
- If you are attending or hosting large gatherings it is good to get tested before and after the event as an added layer of protection. This includes church events and fundraisers.
- Testing is free and available for everyone, regardless of immigration or insurance status.
- Find a site near you at covid19.lacounty.gov/testing.

General COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

- There are certain things that might put you at a higher risk of getting really sick from COVID-19:
  - You or people in your household are **not fully vaccinated or boosted**.
  - You or people in your household have a chronic condition like diabetes or high blood pressure, or you are immunocompromised.
  - You are 65 or older, or you live with/care for someone who is.
  - You are too young to be vaccinated and boosted.
  - You or people in your household are in close contact with people at work, school, or another community setting who are unmasked, unvaccinated, and may have COVID-19.
  - The risk of community spread in LA County is at Substantial or High Level, according to the CDC.
- If you are a high risk of getting really sick from COVID-19, you should do the following
  - Always wear a mask in indoor public settings.
  - Avoid non-essential indoor gatherings, especially if you don't know if other people are vaccinated or not.
  - Get tested before and after gatherings.
  - Get vaccinated and boosted if you have not done so already.