STAY HEALTHY… BECAUSE VACCINES WORK

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.

**COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.** They help protect you from becoming sick if you are exposed to the virus. As more people are vaccinated, families and communities are able to return to a more normal routine. The recent approval of the Pfizer vaccine for children 5 to 11 is another important step forward. Protecting them through vaccination helps further protect everyone.

It’s natural to wonder if brand new vaccines developed at unprecedented speed, are effective and safe to take. But here’s what the Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey wants you to know:

- **Overall effectiveness has been reported in the range of 70% to 95%.** That’s well above the average effectiveness of the flu vaccine, for example.
- **Side effects have been minor.** And a side effect or reaction isn’t necessarily all bad; it may indicate that the body is building protection against the virus.
- **The vaccine can’t cause COVID-19** because no live SARS-CoV-2 virus is used. If a person develops COVID-19 soon after vaccination, it’s not due to the vaccine.
- **The vaccines are safe for people with underlying medical conditions.** They are even safe for pregnant women and women planning a pregnancy.

Sure, there are pros and cons to any new medical treatment. If you have questions, speak to your pediatrician, family physician or healthcare provider. The decision to be vaccinated against COVID-19 should be an easy one.

Let us be a resource for you.
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