

TALKING POINTS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS



Community health workers are valuable sources of comfort and support for their communities during times of distress, including the growing presence of COVID-19 in different parts of the country. You have the ability to speak on concerns, fears, and anxieties regarding COVID-19.

Suggestion: Reiterate the importance of essential workers for their families and communities. They need to stay healthy because they provide for their families and fulfill a crucial role in their communities. If they get COVID-19, they will have to stop working.

Vaccine readiness/confidence

Safety

- The vaccines are safe.
- The vaccines can't give you COVID-19.

- The vaccines went through many rigorous tests to confirm they're safe and effective. That's why they were authorized for use.
- The authorized COVID-19 vaccines will be continuously monitored for safety.

Effectiveness

- Every COVID-19 vaccine available in the United States is [effective](#) at preventing COVID-19.
- The vaccines prevent nearly 100% of hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

Emergency approval

- The FDA carefully reviewed the study data and authorized the vaccines because the expected benefits outweigh potential risks.

Guaranteed immunity?

- After vaccination, it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Even after being vaccinated, you still need to wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.
- If you get COVID-19, there can be long-term health issues after recovery, which is one of the reasons the vaccine is so important.
- We don't know if getting COVID-19 will protect you from getting it again or how long that protection lasts.



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Side effects

- Not everyone develops side effects. There have been no trends of serious or long-term side effects after being vaccinated.
- Side effects typically last at most a few days, but you should seek medical care if symptoms don't go away.
- Side effects are a sign that your immune system is working.

Availability, cost, and immigration status

- Vaccines are here now and everyone age 16 and older in the United States can get them. Find out where you can get a vaccine near you at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).
- The vaccines are free of charge to everyone living in the United States, regardless of immigration or health insurance status.
- Receiving the vaccine will not negatively impact your immigration status.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has [clarified](#) that vaccines are available to all individuals regardless of immigration status and that enforcement activities won't be conducted at or near vaccine distribution sites or clinics.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has [specified](#) that it won't consider testing, treatment, or preventive care, including vaccines, related to COVID-19 as part of a public charge inadmissibility determination.

Getting through your workday safely

- Maintain at least 6 feet between coworkers and customers as much as possible with the understanding that you are taking care of them and yourself and not trying to be rude or disrespectful.
- Eat lunch alone or at a distance from coworkers when possible.
- Keep your mask on as much as possible.

What to do if a coworker tests positive for COVID-19

- Tell your coworker to notify your employer as soon as possible. They will then coordinate with local health officials who are trained on the best practices to follow.
- This might mean a change in shifts, schedules, and employees' working responsibilities to keep everyone safe.