

[State residents] are anxious to move past COVID-19 and return to normal in the workplace and the marketplace. It will take all of us working together to beat COVID-19. One way you can do your part is to receive a COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you.

Experts point to vaccines as a key step in this journey. As [State residents] consider whether to take a COVID-19 vaccine, it’s helpful to address some commonly expressed concerns about COVID-19 vaccines.

First, you can help stop the COVID-19 pandemic by getting a vaccine. To stop this pandemic, we need to use all our prevention tools. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent disease. Vaccines work with your body’s natural defenses so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. This is also called “immunity.”

COVID-19 vaccines are effective.  During clinical trials, COVID-19 vaccines were shown to be effective in reducing chances of coming down with serious disease. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. These vaccines cannot give you the disease.

Some people may be worried about paying for the COVID-19 vaccine. The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to people living in the United States. However, your vaccination provider may bill your insurance company, Medicaid or Medicare for an administration fee.

It is common to feel some side effects when you receive the vaccine. These are normal signs that your body is building immunity. The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like the flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities. Most of these side effects should go away in a few days.

As more [State residents] receive the vaccine, it will be important to continue to wear a mask and socially distance after getting each shot of the vaccine for now. As experts learn more about how COVID-19 vaccination may help reduce spread of the disease, the CDC will continue to use the latest science to update the recommendations for protecting communities.

For more information, visit the Southeastern Coastal Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (http://www.sccahs.org/index.php/covid-19-vaccine/).