KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE TO MAKE THE HEALTHIEST CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD.
Feeling Hesitant About Your Child Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccination?

- Feeling hesitant around making important health decisions for yourself and your family is normal.

- Being unsure about which sources of information to trust is also normal and sorting through misinformation can be challenging.

- Not knowing where you or your child can receive the FREE COVID-19 vaccination is a common barrier that many parents have faced.

- Not understanding how the vaccine works, or how it was developed, tested, and regulated is common. Most of us are not doctors or scientists, and we need plain language that we can really understand.

Your questions are valid, valued, and welcome!
Misinformation Can Be Deadly. Did You Know…

- 31% of adults report that they received their information about COVID-19 vaccines from social media.

- 8 out of 10 Americans either “believe” or “aren’t sure of” at least 1 out of 8 false COVID-related statements.

- Computer algorithms spread misinformation quickly, and false news stories have a 70% greater chance of being retweeted/shared compared to true news stories.

- Because of the above statistic, it is estimated that falsehoods spread 6 times faster.

- And because so many people were misinformed about how to treat COVID-19, in early 2020:
  - 6,000 people were hospitalized
  - 800 people died
  - 60 people went blind from drinking bleach
The COVID-19 vaccine does not alter DNA.

There are no microchips in the COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you magnetic.

The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain the live virus.
The Basics of the Immune System! No Ph.D. Required.

- **Pathogens:**
  - Tiny germs that can make us sick (Examples: bacteria, fungi, viruses, etc.)
  - Immune cells identify the invading pathogens and kill them.
  - If our body can “remember” the pathogens it has already encountered, then our body develops immunity against repeat infections.

- **Vaccines** help our bodies remember.
  - Vaccines are like school for your immune system. A booster vaccine is like additional training.

- **Antibodies:**
  - Proteins that your body makes to help fight infections.
  - Tests can help determine if antibodies are present due to an infection, or a vaccination.
  - Antibodies target one specific pathogen.
  - So, your body needs different kinds of antibodies to fight the many different pathogens.
  - This is why we need multiple vaccines (Flu, COVID-19, Measles etc.)
What is a Vaccine?

- Vaccines tools to help the body learn to defend itself.
- This learning is called adaptive immunity.

How do Vaccines Work?

- Vaccines contain materials that imitate a specific infection.
- The body then makes the specific tools it needs to respond to that specific pathogen (germ).
- In the future, if the body is attacked by a pathogen, it has the correct tools that it needs to fight the infection.

Example: A shovel is a handy and helpful tool to have, but what if we need to saw a piece of wood in half? We need the right tools for the job at hand.
What is the SARS CoV-2 Virus?

- COVID-19 is the disease that is caused by the SARS CoV-2 virus.
- SARS CoV-2 is part of a family of viruses called Coronaviruses.
- Corona means crown, and it refers to the protein spikes that develops on the pathogen. These spikes allow the pathogen to attach to human cells.
How Do You Prevent the Spread of COVID-19?

- The most effective tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is getting vaccinated.

- Stay home if you or your child doesn’t feel well. Better safe than sorry!

- Get tested if you have symptoms. Test weekly if unvaccinated.

- Being outside and in highly-ventilated areas reduces risk.

- Wear a mask during high periods of spread, or if immunocompromised. Consider your personal risk.
  - N-95 and KN-95s are the most effective; cloth masks and bandanas are less effective.
  - Wear your mask properly. It must fully cover both the nose and mouth.

- Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands (with soap) making sure you wash the front and back of hands and in between fingers for at least 20 seconds (sing “Happy Birthday” twice).
My children are young and healthy and have successfully fought off other colds and infections. Won’t their bodies just fight a COVID-19 infection in the same way?

- Natural immunity does sometimes develop in response to an infection from a pathogen, but in the process of fighting the pathogen, your child could face life-threatening complications including severe illness and even death.
Natural immunity is the antibody protection your body creates against a germ once you’ve been infected with it.

Natural immunity varies according to the person and the germ.

A mild case of an illness *may not* result in strong natural immunity.

New studies show that natural immunity to the coronavirus weakens over time, and this weakening occurs much faster than immunity provided by COVID-19 vaccination.
The Risks of Remaining Unvaccinated...

- Your child could become very sick as their body struggles in the fight against the pathogen.
- They will need to isolate to prevent the spread of infection, missing out on school, activities they love, and time with family and friends.
- They could experience serious illnesses, and in some cases, even death.
- They may need to be hospitalized and receive medical support.
- They can transmit the infection to you, siblings, grandparents, teachers, friends, etc., even without experiencing any symptoms.
- They have a high risk of reinfection.
- The risks and complications of “Long-COVID” (lingering symptoms) in children is not yet fully known.
I’ve heard that children don’t get COVID-19. Is that true?

There have been approx. 2 million cases of COVID-19 among children ages 5 to 11. Each dot below represents a child with COVID-19.

*CDC
(But wait! The dots on the prior slide only number 1 million. So, here’s another 1 million dots representing another 1 million cases of COVID-19 in children ages 5-11).
THE FDA AUTHORIZED THE Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN 5 AND OLDER.
I’ve heard that kids only get mild cases of COVID-19. Is that true?

- COVID-19 can make children very sick and cause them to be hospitalized.
- Getting vaccinated is the best protection.
- Vaccinated children often don’t have to quarantine or miss school.
- Even if your child had COVID-19, vaccination gives longer lasting protection.
➢ The COVID-19 vaccine has been proven safe and effective for children 5 and older.

➢ The COVID-19 vaccine has undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in United States history.

➢ The COVID-19 vaccine protects against serious illness from COVID-19.

➢ Studies among 5-to-17-year-olds showed the vaccine to be highly effective in protecting against COVID-19.

➢ There is no cost and no insurance required.
Does the COVID-19 Vaccine Cause Side Effects for Children?

- Sore arm
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Chills, low-grade fever
- Muscle pain

Resolved with acetaminophen or ibuprofen.
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED THE COVID-19 VACCINE WITH NO SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS.
Scientists have conducted clinical trials with thousands of children.

No serious safety concerns were identified.

There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility.

Myocarditis has occurred in older children; however, the occurrence is very rare, and most cases are mild. No cases have been identified in younger children.
How Are Pediatric Doses Administered?

- Adolescents ages 12 and older receive the same dose as adults.

- Children ages 5 to 11 receive an age-appropriate (lower) dose.
  - The vaccine has a different-colored cap (pediatric cap is orange; cap for 12+ is purple)

- Your child will need a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine three weeks after the first.

- The COVID-19 vaccine can be given with other vaccines during the same visit.
How Was the Vaccine Developed So Quickly?

- This vaccine is based on decades of on-going vaccine research.
- Scientists were already working on vaccines for other coronaviruses.
- More people than usual quickly volunteered to participate in clinical trials of the vaccine.
- Conducting overlapping phases of vaccine trials sped up the trial process without impacting the rigor or quality of those trials.
- Manufacturing materials were being built or procured at the same time the trials were occurring, which meant that as soon as the trials were completed, there was no delay in starting the manufacturing process.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reviews and approves all vaccines for safe use. Sometimes there is a line of many medications awaiting their approval. Due to the deadly nature of this disease and the crippling global impacts, the COVID-19 vaccine was pushed to the front of the line for approvals.
My name is Virginia. I work as a certified nurse's assistant for about 20 years.
AS NEW VARIANTS ARISE, VACCINATION IS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD.
COVID-19 vaccines are available from:

- Hospital systems
- Pharmacies
- Your Pediatrician or Family Doctor’s Office
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Division of Public Health Clinics
- Some sites require scheduling an appointment online or putting your name on a waiting list. Other sites offer walk-in hours.

➢ Get yourself and your children vaccinated for COVID-19.

➢ Consider wearing a mask around those who are unvaccinated or are immunocompromised.

➢ Follow Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and Delaware Division of Public Health – DPH on social media for ongoing virus and vaccine updates.

➢ Visit de.gov/covidvaccine for more information and resources.