Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Getting Your First COVID-19 Vaccine Could Save Your Life

COVID-19 vaccines are among the most effective in the history of medicine.

They were made so quickly because they use technology that's been around for decades. Many countries helped fund this research to save lives all over the world.

Some steps in the approval process were shortened, but the strict standards for safety and effectiveness never changed. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine now has full approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Vaccines are safe for people with cancer.

COVID-19 vaccines give you strong protection from getting very sick. They also can prevent hospitalization and death. But now there are new versions of the virus, called variants, that are spreading quickly.

If you wait, vaccines may not work as well to protect you from these new threats.

When you get vaccinated, it's our best hope for returning to normal.

Vaccines are our best tool for ending the pandemic. The more people who are vaccinated, the safer we all are. Help protect your family, friends, and your community.

Tens of millions of Americans have safely gotten COVID-19 vaccines. Please join them, so you can be safe too.

Please take a moment to learn about how we know COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Visit www.msk.org/coronavirus

If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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