# **Vaccination Helps to Keep Your Community Healthy**





# **Congratulations!**

By getting vaccinated, you just took an important step to help protect yourself from severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Your vaccination will also reduce the spread of germs to friends, family, and each person around you!



### Did you know?

Being vaccinated helps protect other people too, including those who cannot be immunized because of their age or health condition.

#### There is power in numbers!

As each person gets vaccinated (and becomes immune), it gets harder and harder for the virus in a contagious person to find and spread to the next person. When a lot of people get vaccinated (and become immune), the spread of the virus begins to slow down. When a large percentage of a community gets vaccinated (and becomes immune), the community can reach a point called "herd immunity." With herd immunity, the few unvaccinated people are protected indirectly from infection. A benefit of herd immunity is that it protects the people left vulnerable because they cannot get vaccinated due to age or medical conditions. But herd immunity is a fragile thing. It falls apart if people stop getting vaccinated or if people don't stay up to date with booster doses.



# What else can you do?

- Stay up to date on your recommended vaccinations.
- In the fall, get your flu vaccine. Protect against seasonal influenza and its complications.
- Encourage your friends and family to get vaccinated. Share accurate information about COVID-19 and other vaccines.
- If you are at risk of other preventable infections, get those vaccines too, such as vaccines to prevent pneumonia, shingles, and RSV.

Vaccines are our best defense against many contagious diseases.





Talk to your pharmacist if you have any questions about your vaccinations. Schedule any vaccinations you need.



