

A campaign to increase vaccine confidence while reinforcing basic prevention measures



User Guide for Faith-Based Leaders Toolkit

This material is for faith-based leaders and organizations that communicate directly with congregation members.

Content last reviewed: June 14, 2021

Your Role as a Faith-Based Leader in your Community

- As a leader grounded in faith in your community, you're one of the most trusted messengers. You have the unique ability to address potential concerns, fears, and anxieties regarding COVID-19 and the vaccines with compassion and authority.
- Your congregation sees you as a reliable source of information and, for that reason, you can help manage fear and stigma.
- As a trusted messenger to your congregation, you can positively influence the decisions your community makes on vaccination.
- We want to help you provide accessible and trustworthy information so you can be confident in your guidance to your congregation.

Purpose and Goal

The purpose of this toolkit is to highlight some of the very useful communication resources from CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 public education campaign.

The goal is to explain how faith-based leaders like you can use this toolkit to build vaccine confidence among your staff, congregation, and other people in your community.

Vaccination is an important tool to help your community members remain safe from COVID-19. Until you're fully vaccinated, wearing a mask inside public places, keeping at least 6 feet apart from people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, and washing your hands will slow the spread of infection.

What is vaccine confidence?

Vaccine confidence is the trust that patients, their families, and providers have in:

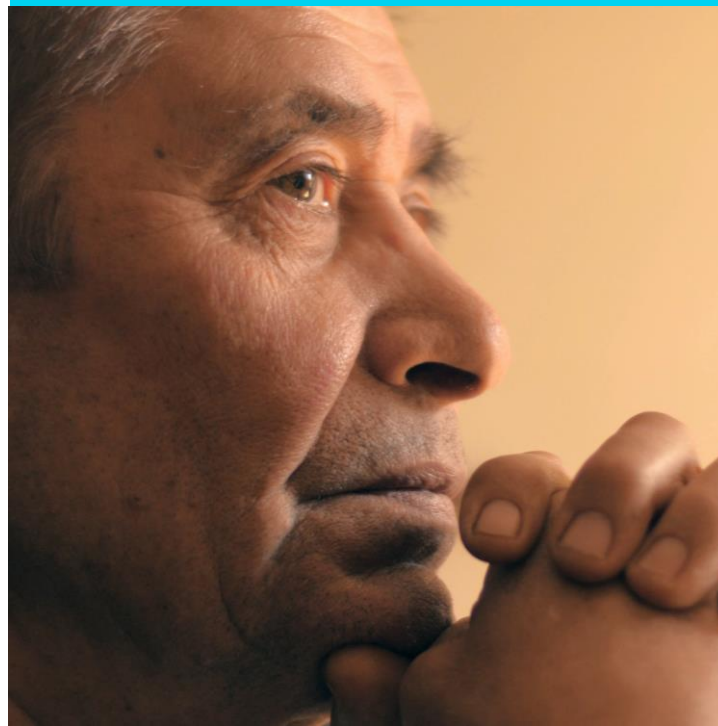
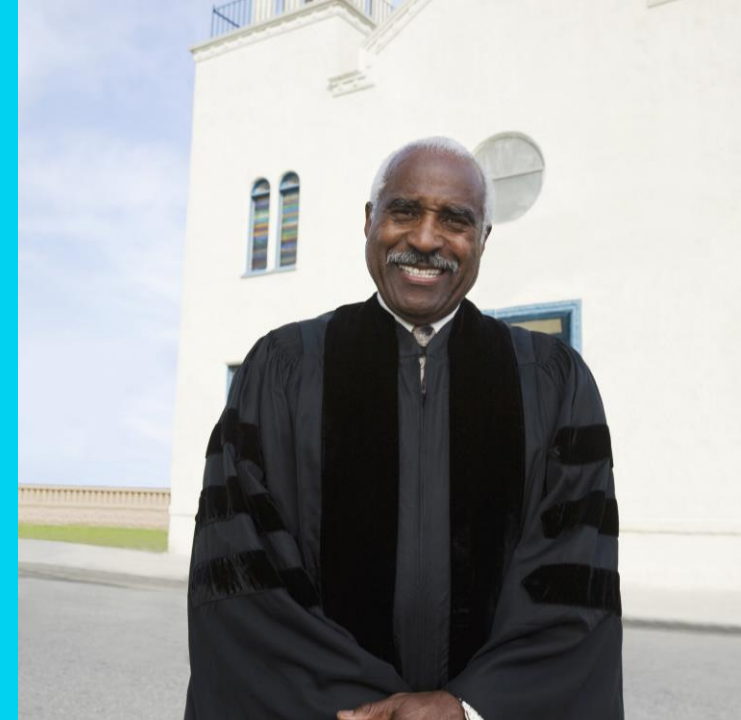
- Recommended vaccines;
- Providers who administer vaccines; and
- Processes and policies that lead to vaccine development, licensure or authorization, manufacturing, and recommendations for use.

Tools and Resources

This toolkit features a combination of existing materials from [CDC](#) as well as newly developed and culturally tailored materials developed for the [HHS COVID-19 public education campaign](#) partner site. Here you will find the following:

- FAQs
- Fact sheets
- Bulletin announcements
- Live events and webinars
- Social media messaging
- Talking points
- Web widgets
- Infographics
- Videos

We'll regularly update this toolkit, so please check back for new materials.



Frequently Asked Questions

Your congregation will have many questions about how they can keep practicing their faith during the COVID-19 pandemic. [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Faith-Based Leaders](#) is a resource for you and your staff to have on hand with answers to common questions your community members might have.

Suggested Use:

- Hang in shared areas, staff lounges, break rooms, kitchens, and restrooms.
- Post on bulletin boards.

COVID-19 FAQs



COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS For Faith-Based Leaders

Questions From Faith-Based Leaders

Given how easily the virus spreads, how can faith-based organizations offer safe in-person services?

To slow the spread of COVID-19 in your communities, it's important to follow public health recommendations. Check frequently with your state and local health authorities for the latest information, because safety precautions depend on the severity of infection rates in your region. There are some [precautionary measures that religious leaders can adopt when organizing in-person services](#) so they can continue practicing their faith while keeping their staff and congregation safe at the same time.



It's important to remember that even those who don't show symptoms can spread the virus.

- Encourage community members to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they can. Until everyone is fully vaccinated.
- Encourage people to stay 6 feet apart from people who don't live with them and who may not be vaccinated.
- Host gatherings outdoors when possible. If not feasible, make sure the room or space is well-ventilated. Arrange tables and chairs to allow people to stay 6 feet apart.
- Wear masks inside public places and remind community members to use their own. It's a good idea to provide masks for those who don't have them.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water and ask your community members to wash their hands for 20 seconds before and after entering the service/gathering. It's a good idea to provide hand sanitizer and to clearly mark handwashing areas.
- Clean commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use.

How can faith-based organizations expand our operations during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Faith-based organizations should [establish and maintain communication with local and state authorities](#) to determine current policies

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For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Click [here](#) to download

Fact Sheets

Members of your faith community might have to quarantine or isolate themselves during this pandemic. Fact sheets like [COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation](#) can guide members of your congregation who might have been exposed to or have contracted COVID-19. They can also help you convey the differences in these preventive measures.

Suggested Use:

- Hang in shared areas, staff lounges, break rooms, kitchens, and restrooms.
- Post on bulletin boards.

COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.

ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.

If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19

- The best way to protect yourself and others is to [stay home for 14 days](#) after your last contact. Check your [local health department's website](#) for information about options in your area to possibly shorten this quarantine period.
- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19

- Stay home until after
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
 - Symptoms have improved
- If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms
 - Stay home until after
 - 10 days have passed since your positive test
 - If you live with others, stay in a specific "sick room" or area and away from other people or animals, including pets. Use a separate bathroom, if available.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Click [here](#) to download

Fact Sheets

People in your community may be concerned about whether they need to show their ID, proof of citizenship, or proof of insurance to get a COVID-19 vaccine. They may also be confused about whether they have to pay for a vaccine. HHS created fact sheets to help your community better understand their rights and responsibilities regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines.

You can download, print, and hang these fact sheets to promote the conversation in your community and give visibility to the importance of being vaccinated even if you don't have insurance.

Suggested Use:

- Hang in shared areas and restrooms.
- Share on your social media and instant messaging accounts.

No Health Insurance?

**NO HEALTH INSURANCE?
NEED COVID-19 SERVICES?**

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

Free COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccines.

Who can get services?
Anyone without health insurance, no matter their immigration status. A Social Security Number and/or government ID may be requested, but is **NOT** required.

What is free?
✓ Testing for COVID-19
✓ Treatment of COVID-19
✓ Vaccines for COVID-19

How is it free?
A federal **Uninsured Program** pays for COVID-19 services provided to **anyone** without health insurance.

More Information

For Patients
<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/for-patients>

For Health Care Providers
<https://coviduninsuredclaim.tlkhhealth.com>

Important Details

- **Everyone is eligible for COVID-19 services, no matter their immigration status.** Testing, treatment or vaccinations paid for by the federal government will not affect anyone's immigration status or be shared with immigration agencies.
- If you are uninsured and receive a bill related to COVID-19 testing or treatment, ask your provider to bill the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program instead of you.
- **You cannot be billed for COVID-19 services if you are uninsured and the government is paying your healthcare provider for your care.** If you receive a bill, and you already paid, you may be owed a refund and you should first speak to the person or facility that sent it. If they don't cancel the bill or give you a refund, contact the HHS Office of Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-HHS-TIPS or visit <https://TIPS.HHS.GOV> to file a complaint.
- **You do not need a Social Security Number or government ID** to receive free COVID-19 services.
- The doctor, pharmacy, or clinic may ask for this information but it is **only to help them confirm you don't have insurance** so they can get paid by the Uninsured Program.
- **You will still be treated, tested, or vaccinated for COVID-19 if you are not able to provide a Social Security Number or government ID.**
- **You cannot be billed for COVID-19 vaccinations.** If you receive a bill, you should first speak to the person or facility that sent it. If they don't cancel it, contact the HHS Office of Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-HHS-TIPS or visit <https://TIPS.HHS.GOV> to file a complaint.

Click [here](#) to download

Bulletin Announcements

You need to communicate with your community as often as you can with accurate and informative messaging. These bulletins highlight the information relayed throughout the rest of the toolkit and keep conversations around COVID-19 prevention and vaccination visible and accessible to your congregation.

Suggested Use:

- Copy and paste onto your weekly printed bulletins.
- Share through your email newsletters.

Ways to Protect Our Health

WAYS TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH 

Remember that a vaccine is just one tool we have to slow the spread of COVID-19. Until you're fully vaccinated, you still need to do as public health officials advise us:

-  Wear a mask when inside public places.
-  Stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
-  Avoid crowds.
-  Avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
-  Wash your hands often with soap and water.

Content last reviewed: June 14, 2021

For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Click [here](#) to download

Facebook Live Events and Webinars

- In addition to using Facebook to share social media posts, you can host a **Facebook Live** event that will bring important vaccine messaging to your congregation. This tip sheet provides sample event ideas, topics, and formats for your consideration.
- **Facebook Live** is a feature of the Facebook social network that uses the camera on a computer or mobile device to broadcast live or recorded real-time video to Facebook. Live broadcasters can use this content to engage their audience during the moments and events that are important to them.

Facebook Live Events and Webinars for Faith Based Leaders

FACEBOOK LIVE EVENTS
For Faith-Based Leaders

Overview

Facebook Live is a feature of the Facebook social network that uses the camera on a computer or mobile device to broadcast live or prerecorded video to Facebook. Live broadcasters can use this content to engage their audience during the moments and events that are important to them.

Facebook Live events will be archived for later sharing/uploading/embedding on faith-based organization websites.

Sample Events:

- **Live Q&A—Facebook (can be small group)**
This moderated Facebook forum lets people hear from a diverse panel of community and congregation members who've already received the vaccine. Panel members will share their experiences and take questions from viewers.
- **Live Faith Leader Q&A—Facebook (can be larger group)**
This moderated Facebook forum lets people hear from a diverse panel of faith-based leaders and members who've already received the vaccine. Panel members will share their experiences and take questions from viewers.
- **Live First Responder Q&A—Facebook**
In this forum, attendees will hear from and ask questions of either medical professionals, first responders, or both who are members of their communities and the congregation.
- **Live Fact Versus Fiction Q&A—Facebook**
In this forum, attendees will hear from and ask questions of medical professionals who can address common myths, misconceptions, and trust issues surrounding the vaccines with education on the FDA's use of Institutional review boards to protect human participants during clinical trials.

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For more information, visit cdc.gov/coronavirus

Click [here](#) to download

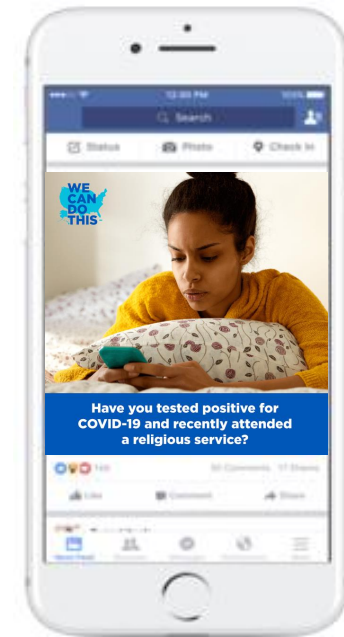
Social Media Messaging

In the following link, you'll find sample social media posts and images that can help you communicate with your congregants, colleagues, friends, and loved ones.

“Have you just tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?”



Click [here](#) to download



Talking Points

Use these talking points in conversations with members of your congregation. They cover a wide range of topics, including vaccine safety, prevention measures, and staying connected with the community.

Suggested Use:

- Make copies to distribute and keep in common areas, such as hallways and break rooms.
- Share digital copies through your social media and instant messaging accounts.

COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points



COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points for Faith-Based Leaders

Caring for the community

It's easy to feel helpless during these times. But, until you're fully vaccinated, there are steps we can all take to help us stay healthy:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth inside public places to help protect yourself and others.
- Keep at least 6 feet apart from other people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Get vaccinated when as soon as you can. You have three ways to find vaccines near you:
 - Go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
 - Text your ZIP code to 438829
 - Call 1-800-232-0233

Our community is here to support you—emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Don't hesitate to contact us. Also try to reach out to people who you know are lonely or who may feel isolated in their efforts to avoid getting the virus.

Remember to check on the elderly and other vulnerable members of our community. And, if you can help them, do so.

Vaccine readiness/confidence

Safety

- Medical trials have shown that the vaccines are safe and effective.
- They were authorized for the public only after thousands of volunteers took them safely during medical studies. Tens of millions of people have already taken the vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccines are continuously monitored for safety and effectiveness.

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Click [here](#) to download.

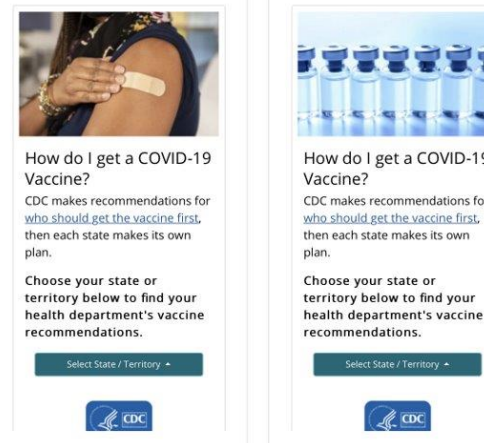
Web Widgets

A Web widget is an application you can embed on your website or in your email newsletters using the HTML code provided. These widgets provide the link to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), where people can find vaccines near them.

Suggested Use:

- Add it to your website or the site where you share updates and service announcements.
- Include it in email newsletters.

How do I get a COVID-19 vaccine?



The image shows two identical web widget screenshots side-by-side. Each widget features a header image: the left one shows a person's arm with a bandage, and the right one shows several vials of vaccine. Below the images is the title 'How do I get a COVID-19 Vaccine?' followed by a paragraph: 'CDC makes recommendations for [who should get the vaccine first](#), then each state makes its own plan.' Below this is another paragraph: 'Choose your state or territory below to find your health department's vaccine recommendations.' At the bottom of each widget is a dark green button with the text 'Select State / Territory' and a small CDC logo.

Click [here](#) to download

Find COVID-19 Vaccines Near You



The image shows a web widget with a dark blue background. At the top, the text 'Find COVID-19 Vaccines Near You' is written in white. Below this is a light blue rounded rectangular button with the text 'Visit Vaccines.gov' in dark blue. At the bottom of the widget, there are three logos: 'WE CAN DO THIS' with a map of the USA, the CDC logo, and the Department of Health and Human Services logo.

Click [here](#) to download

Infographics

Different people within your community may require different ways of receiving information.

Infographics such as [Getting 'Back to Normal' Is Going to Take All of Our Tools](#) gives a good visual representation of the recommendations CDC suggests your congregation follow to prevent getting sick with COVID-19.

Suggested Use:

- Share them digitally with your community through your social media and instant messaging accounts.

Getting 'Back to Normal' Is Going to Take All of Our Tools



Click [here](#) to download

Vaccine Confidence Videos

It's important for your community to get the facts about the available COVID-19 vaccines. Along with the other resources in this toolkit, these videos will help you build vaccine confidence within your community.

Suggested Use:

- Use them during staff meetings or incorporate them in weekly services.
- Share them digitally with staff, congregants, and members of your community through your social media and instant messaging accounts.

COVID-19 Vaccines: How Do We Know They Are Safe?



Click [here](#) to download

Vaccine Confidence Videos

The Key to Success Is Listening to Our Medical Community: Rev. Calvin Butts

A video thumbnail featuring Rev. Calvin Butts, a Black man with glasses, speaking in a room with wooden shutters. A pink play button is centered over the image.

Rev. Calvin Butts
Pastor
Abyssinian Baptist Church

Q: How can the black community become more confident and informed on vaccines?



Click [here](#) to download

Trusted Voices on COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance: Rev. Walter Kim

A video thumbnail featuring Reverend Walter Kim, an Asian man with grey hair, wearing a blue shirt and a dark jacket, speaking in a church setting. A pink play button is centered over the image.

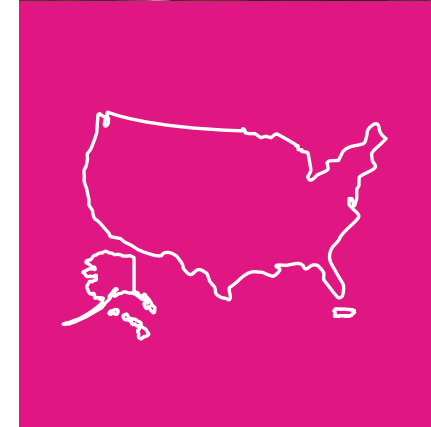
Reverend Walter Kim
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF EVANGELICALS

Click [here](#) to download

For More Information

In addition to the resources highlighted here, look at the [COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit](#), which has materials to share with your congregants, such as fact sheets, posters, stickers, and example social media posts. The [CDC website](#) also has general information and resources on COVID-19, as well as specific materials that your community will find most useful.

This toolkit is intended to help you better understand the facts, feel confident about getting vaccinated, and encourage others to get vaccinated. With your help, we can slow the spread of COVID-19!



**Thank you, faith-based
leaders, for being on the
front lines against COVID-19!**





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your organization's
logo

COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For Faith-Based Leaders

Questions From Faith-Based Leaders

Given how easily the virus spreads, how can faith-based organizations offer safe in-person services?

To slow the spread of COVID-19 in your communities, it's important to follow public health recommendations. Check frequently with your [state and local health authorities](#) for the latest information, because safety precautions depend on the severity of infection rates in your region. There are some [precautionary measures that religious leaders can adopt when organizing in-person services](#) so they can continue practicing their faith while keeping their staff and congregation safe at the same time.



It's important to remember that even those who don't show symptoms can spread the virus.

Encourage community members to get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they can. Until everyone is fully vaccinated:

- Encourage people to stay 6 feet apart from people who don't live with them and who may not be vaccinated.
- Host gatherings outdoors when possible. If not feasible, make sure the room or space is well-ventilated. Arrange tables and chairs to allow people to stay 6 feet apart.
- Wear masks inside public places and remind community members to use their own. It's a good idea to provide masks for those who don't have them.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water and ask your community members to wash their hands for 20 seconds before and after entering the service/gathering. It's a good idea to provide hand sanitizer and to clearly mark handwashing areas.
- Clean commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use.

How can faith-based organizations expand our operations during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Faith-based organizations should [establish and maintain communication with local and state authorities](#) to determine current policies

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FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: COVID-19 FAQs

in their communities. Some recommendations include:

- Ensure community contact lists are current and create “call trees” to reach members with updates.
- Consider how your organization can continue to use technology to make services and events available online—even as you begin to gather in person.
- [Consider how community and liturgical practices can be adapted to minimize close contact](#). Refer to your national and regional leaders for specific guidance.
- Invite your congregants to greet each other from a distance, taking into consideration that we are protecting each other in a safe manner and not intending to be disrespectful or rude.
- Consider suspending certain religious rituals by draining baptismal fonts, holy water stations, and vessels used for ritual washing.

What procedures should we follow if a member of our community has been infected with COVID-19 and was in contact with the rest of our congregation?

If a community member has been infected, faith leaders should:

- Ensure the member’s privacy and ask the person to [distance themselves](#) from the community and not attend any of the religious or public places where they could infect other people. The safety of their family and community is the most important thing.
- Check on the infected individual from afar, such as through phone calls, and recommend that they follow up with their health care provider if additional medical help is needed.

- If this person was in your facility, notify your local health officials. They can guide you on what best practices to follow. Ensure the privacy of the infected person, [as required by federal law](#). Tell staff and other congregants about the potential exposure and [encourage them to stay home, self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidelines should they develop symptoms](#).

How do we prepare our congregation for COVID-19 vaccination?

It’s important that faith-based organizations prepare their congregations for the COVID-19 vaccination program. Experts have confirmed that [COVID-19 vaccines will help reduce the spread of the disease in communities](#).

- Receiving the vaccine is an act of love to our families and neighbors.
- Provide regular and accurate information to congregants and the community in support of the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.
- [Share clear and accurate information with your community](#) to make sure they understand the risks and benefits of getting vaccinated and can make informed decisions for themselves and their families.
- Sign up for the [COVID-19 Community Corps](#) to receive timely updates and information to share with your family, friends, and community.
- Organize virtual meetings with your communities, in collaboration with local health authorities or [community health centers](#), about the COVID-19 vaccines to strengthen the confidence of community members to get vaccinated.



Questions From the Congregation

How does the virus that causes COVID-19 spread?

Scientists are still learning about the virus that causes COVID-19, how it spreads, and the severity of the disease it causes. What we do know is that the virus is spread easily from person to person if they are in close contact with one another (within 6 feet). We also know that:

- Infections mostly occur through exposure to respiratory droplets.
- The virus can spread when droplets linger in the air and come into contact with a person.
- People not feeling sick or showing symptoms can still spread the virus to others.
- The virus is not commonly spread by contact with contaminated surfaces.
- Taking the precautions outlined by CDC can help to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.



Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. Safety is a top priority, and there are many reasons to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large medical studies to make sure they meet safety standards. Many people volunteered to participate in these trials to see how the vaccines protect people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as to those with different medical conditions. All COVID-19 vaccines currently being distributed in the United States were carefully evaluated to confirm their safety before being authorized for use. Also, the FDA and CDC have very strict systems to [monitor vaccine safety and side effects once the vaccines are in use](#).

Are the vaccines free to the public? Who is paying for them?

COVID-19 vaccines are 100% free for every individual living in the United States—even if you do not have insurance. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients by the government. [No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee](#).

If you are uninsured and receive a bill related to COVID-19 testing or treatment, ask your provider to bill the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program instead of you.

In response to concerns of access barriers some immigrants are facing regarding documentation requests prior to receiving a vaccination, and individuals inappropriately being sent bills for COVID-19 vaccine fees, [HHS created fact sheets to help you better understand your rights and responsibilities regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines](#).



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FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: COVID-19 FAQs

Do you need to be an American citizen to get a vaccine?

[Everyone is eligible](#) for COVID-19 services, regardless of your immigration status. Testing, treatment, or vaccinations paid for by the federal government will not affect anyone's immigration status or be shared with immigration agencies.

How were the COVID-19 vaccines developed so fast?

The world was able to develop COVID-19 vaccines so quickly thanks to years of previous research on similar viruses. Also, new technology was used in the development of the vaccines as well as sufficient [funding that allowed firms to run multiple clinical trials and review data from those trials while vaccines were being made](#).

Are there side effects associated with the vaccines?

Some people report [mild side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine](#), including a soreness where you get the shot, fever, chills, feeling tired, or headaches. These side effects usually go away on their own in a few days. These side effects are signs that your immune system is working to build up protection against the disease.

Can the COVID-19 vaccines cause the COVID-19 disease?

No, a person cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. [None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines](#) or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States uses the live virus that causes COVID-19.

Do any of the new COVID-19 vaccines change a person's DNA?

No, none of the COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States [will change a person's DNA or genetic makeup](#). Two of the vaccines, one by Pfizer-BioNTech and the other by Moderna, use something called messenger RNA (mRNA), a lab-made material that is found in its natural form in almost all plants and animals, to protect people from getting COVID-19. But it does not change or interact with a person's DNA or alter their genetic structure because it doesn't enter the cell nucleus, where DNA is kept.

Who should receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Everyone age 12 and older is now eligible to [get a COVID-19 vaccination](#). Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic. You have three ways to find vaccines near you:

- Go to [vaccines.gov](#)
- Text your ZIP code to 438829
- Call 1-800-232-0233

What is "Herd" or Community Immunity?

Herd immunity means that enough people in a community are protected from getting a disease because they've already had the disease or because they've been vaccinated. Herd immunity makes it hard for the disease to spread from person to person, and it even protects those who cannot be vaccinated, like newborns or people who are allergic to the vaccine. For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](#).



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FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS: COVID-19 FAQs

How many doses of the vaccine are needed?

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines [require two shots](#). The first dose gets your body ready. The second dose is given weeks later to make sure you have full protection. The timing between your first and second shot depends on which vaccine you received:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech second dose should be no earlier than 21 days after your first shot.
- The Moderna second dose should be no earlier than 28 days after your first shot.

Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine [requires only one shot](#) for full protection.

Can people stop using face masks after receiving the vaccine?

According to CDC, if you're fully vaccinated (2 weeks after your final dose), you DON'T have to wear a mask indoors or outdoors in public (except in health care settings), and you DON'T have to keep your distance from other people.

Until you're fully vaccinated, you should continue to:

- Wear a mask when inside public places.
- Keep at least 6 feet part from people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

Vaccinated and unvaccinated people must still follow federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial laws, rules, and regulations. That includes public transportation, airport/airplane, local business, and workplace guidance.

Also, if you have a medical condition or you take medicines that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected from COVID-19 even if you're fully vaccinated. Talk to your health care provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking precautions.

What is the best place to find more information regarding COVID-19?

The [CDC website](#) is the best place for individuals and organizations to find the most current and relevant information regarding COVID-19. More information is available at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](#).

You can also sign up for the [COVID-19 Community Corps](#) to receive timely updates and information to share with your family, friends, and community.



WAYS TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH

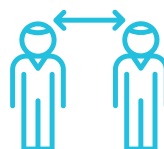


- Our special events continue to be important and can be shared with others by livestreaming key parts or taking pictures and videos to later send to loved ones.
- Congregation members should greet one another at a distance, understanding we're all being mindful and safe rather than rude or disrespectful.
- Notify congregational leadership as soon as possible if someone in our congregation tests positive for COVID-19. If needed, we can coordinate with local health officials who are trained with the best practices to follow.
- Don't forget to make plans to get a vaccine! You have three ways to find vaccines near you:
 - Go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
 - Text your ZIP code to 438829
 - Call 1-800-232-0233

Remember that a vaccine is just one tool we have to slow the spread of COVID-19. Until you're fully vaccinated, you still need to do as public health officials advise us:



Wear a mask when inside public places.



Stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.



Avoid crowds.



Avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces.



Wash your hands often with soap and water.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points for Faith-Based Leaders

Caring for the community

It's easy to feel helpless during these times. But, until you're fully vaccinated, there are steps we can all take to help us stay healthy:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth inside public places to help protect yourself and others.
- Keep at least 6 feet apart from other people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Get vaccinated when as soon as you can. You have three ways to find vaccines near you:
 - Go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
 - Text your ZIP code to 438829
 - Call 1-800-232-0233

Our community is here to support you—emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Don't hesitate to contact us. Also try to reach out to people who you know are lonely or who may feel isolated in their efforts to avoid getting the virus.

Remember to check on the elderly and other vulnerable members of our community. And, if you can help them, do so.

Vaccine readiness/confidence

Safety

- Medical trials have shown that the vaccines are safe and effective.
- They were authorized for the public only after thousands of volunteers took them safely during medical studies. Tens of millions of people have already taken the vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccines are continuously monitored for safety and effectiveness.

Effectiveness

- All the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines were nearly 100% effective in preventing COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths.
- If you contract COVID-19, you may have long-term health problems after you recover. We do not yet know if you can get COVID-19 again, or how long you might be protected from reinfection.

COVID-19 vaccines can't make you sick with COVID-19

None of the authorized and [recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development](#) in the United States contains the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that they can't make you sick with COVID-19. Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

COVID-19 virus variants and vaccines

Scientists are studying different forms, or variants, of the virus that causes COVID-19 to see whether existing vaccines will protect people against them. CDC, in collaboration with other public health agencies, is monitoring the situation closely. Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

What if someone in our congregation tests positive for COVID-19?

- Notify congregational leadership as soon as possible so they can coordinate with local health officials who are trained with the best practices to follow.
- This may mean a temporary closure of the facilities so they can be cleaned and disinfected. We will follow norms to keep everyone safe.

FACEBOOK LIVE EVENTS



For Faith-Based Leaders

Overview

Facebook Live is a feature of the Facebook social network that uses the camera on a computer or mobile device to broadcast live or prerecorded video to Facebook. Live broadcasters can use this content to engage their audience during the moments and events that are important to them.

Facebook Live events will be archived for later sharing/uploading/embedding on faith-based organization websites.



Sample Events:

- **Live Q&A—Facebook (can be small group)**

This moderated Facebook forum lets people hear from a diverse panel of community and congregation members who've already received the vaccine. Panel members will share their experiences and take questions from viewers.

- **Live Faith Leader Q&A—Facebook (can be larger group)**

This moderated Facebook forum lets people hear from a diverse panel of faith-based leaders and members who've already received the vaccine. Panel members will share their experiences and take questions from viewers.

- **Live First Responder Q&A—Facebook**

In this forum, attendees will hear from and ask questions of either medical professionals, first responders, or both who are members of their communities and the congregation.

- **Live Fact Versus Fiction Q&A—Facebook**

In this forum, attendees will hear from and ask questions of medical professionals who can address common myths, misconceptions, and trust issues surrounding the vaccines with education on the FDA's use of institutional review boards to protect human participants during clinical trials.

Content last reviewed: June 14, 2021

For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Faith-Based Social Media Graphic Posts

Facebook/Instagram Sample Messages

Post:

New ways to greet each other! It doesn't take physical contact to offer a friendly greeting. We can express our affection from 6 feet apart. Until we're all fully vaccinated, avoid greeting others with a handshake or a kiss on the cheek. Together we can slow the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

#WeCanDoThis

Text on image:

New ways to greet each other!

Topic: New ways to greet each other!



New ways to greet each other!



New ways to greet each other!



**New ways to greet
each other!**



**New ways to greet
each other!**

Click [here](#) to download

Post

Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service? Confidentially inform the congregational leadership so that they can be aware. If needed, they can work with public health officials to inform those who attended the same service and take the necessary steps to care for the community. Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus

#WeCanDoThis

Text on image:

Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?

Topic: Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?



WE CAN DO THIS

Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?



WE CAN DO THIS

Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?



WE CAN DO THIS

Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?

Click [here](#) to download

Post:

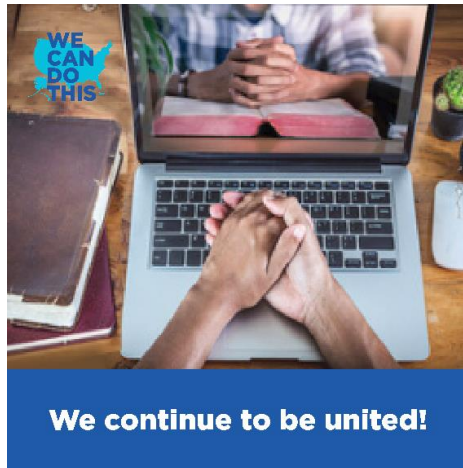
We continue to be united! Although we're distanced, our hearts are united by our faith. Until we're all fully vaccinated, we must stay connected from our homes to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



#WeCanDoThis

Text on image:

We continue to be united!

Topic: We continue to be united!



	 <p>We continue to be united!</p> <p>Click here to download</p>
<p>Post:</p> <p>Stay protected while we all receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Let's continue to protect each other at home, especially those at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19. Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus</p> <p>#WeCanDoThis</p> <p>Text on image:</p> <p>Stay protected until we're all fully vaccinated.</p>	<p>Topic: Stay protected while we wait our turn to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.</p>  <p>Stay protected while we wait our turn to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.</p>



**Stay protected until we're
all fully vaccinated.**



**Stay protected until we're
all fully vaccinated.**



**Stay protected until we're
all fully vaccinated.**

Click [here](#) to download

Twitter Sample Messages

Post:

New ways to greet each other! Until we're all fully vaccinated, avoid greeting other congregants by shaking hands or kissing them on the cheek in religious services. Together we can stop the spread of COVID-19! Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

#WeCanDoThis

Text on image:

New ways to greet each other!

Topic: New ways to greet each other!



Click [here](#) to download

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Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and attended a religious service? Confidentially inform congregational leadership so that they can be aware. Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus

#WeCanDoThis

Text on image:

Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?

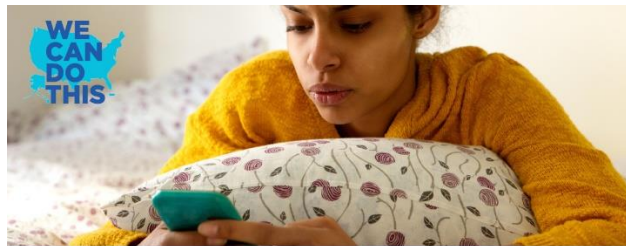
Topic: Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?



Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?



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Have you tested positive for COVID-19 and recently attended a religious service?

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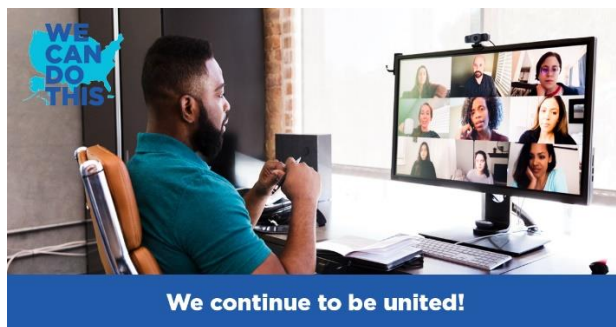
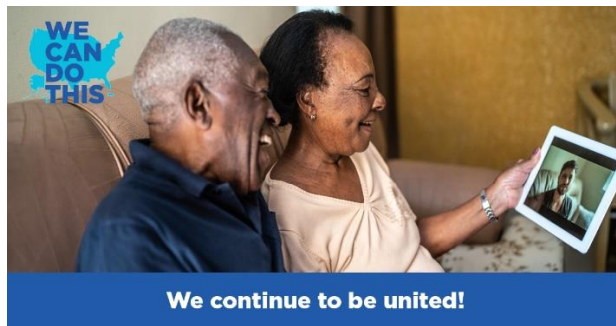
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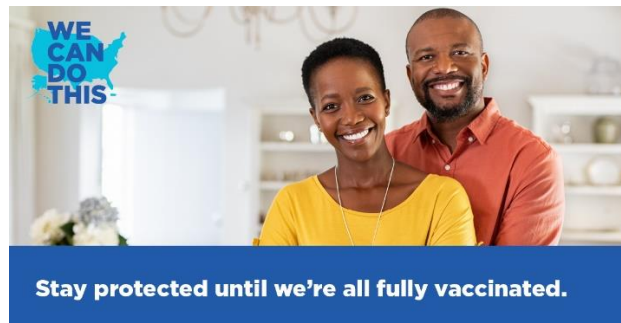
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