Understanding the Different Types of COVID-19 Vaccines

SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes the disease, COVID-19

Did you know?
Corona means crown, and coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface

How do COVID-19 vaccines work?
Coronaviruses have a crown-like spike on their surface, called spike proteins. All of the authorized and/or approved COVID-19 vaccines trigger the immune system to make antibodies against the spike protein to help fight the virus.

There are several types of COVID-19 vaccines

STEP 1
Depending on the type of vaccine, it either introduces the spike protein to the body or gives the body instructions for how to make the spike protein.

STEP 2
The immune system realizes that the spike proteins do not belong in the body and creates antibodies to fight them off.

STEP 3
Once the immune system knows how to fight the spike proteins, it will be ready to respond quickly to the actual virus if you are exposed to it — and protect you from COVID-19.

Why get vaccinated?
COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at helping to protect people from getting seriously ill or being hospitalized. COVID-19 vaccines can offer added protection to people who have already had COVID-19, including preventing infection from new variants.

There is a COVID-19 vaccine that can meet your needs. Knowing your options can help you choose the COVID-19 vaccine that’s best for you and your family.