

Promoting Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccinations for People with Kidney Diseases

Vaccination rates are very low...

Very few dialysis patients in the U.S. are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.¹

...and rates for morbidity and mortality are high

- About **half** of all people with kidney disease had a hospital stay in the first 30 days of a COVID-19 diagnosis.²
- People with kidney diseases were twice as likely (compared to people without kidney diseases) to die within 90 days of a COVID-19 diagnosis.²

COVID-19 poses unique risks to people with kidney diseases

- People on dialysis can have weaker immune systems, making it harder to fight infections.³
- People with kidney diseases are at higher risk for more serious COVID-19 illness.³

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on the kidney patient population...

...an impact so significant (so many patients died) that for the first time in the 50-year history of the Medicare End-Stage Renal Disease program, the total number of people on dialysis in the United States **declined**.⁴

COVID-19 vaccines are safe

Over 50 years of NIH-supported laboratory research converged to develop the science and safety of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.⁵

Many years of research led to the COVID-19 vaccines

- The science behind the COVID-19 vaccines was NOT rushed. In fact, these vaccines were developed after decades of scientific research.⁶
- All of the traditional steps for testing, evaluation, and review were completed thoroughly.⁷
- Vaccine developers did not cut corners – they cut government “red tape”. Because the pandemic was a true global emergency, there was a worldwide effort to remove usual bureaucratic hurdles.⁷



**Stay Up to Date with
COVID-19 Vaccines**



Sources:

1. CDC/NHSN reported data (as of December 2023) · 2. 2023 USRD Annual Data Report (as of December 2021) · 3. National Kidney Foundation · 4. ASN and NKF statement on impacts from COVID-19 · 5. National Institutes of Health · 6. Canadian Institutes of Health Research · 7. American Pharmacists Association



The Benefits of Being Vaccinated Against COVID-19

Prevents serious illness

COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are safe and effective at protecting people from becoming seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying.

A safer way to build protection

Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is a more lasting way to build protection than immunity after being sick by a COVID-19 infection. Vaccine-induced immunity offers protection against severe illness for at least 6-months. Infection-induced immunity diminishes after 90-days.

Promoting Vaccines: Know Facts and Bust Myths

When you hear...	Share...
 I had a COVID shot last year.	The current vaccine formulation is different from previous years and must be used to fight this year's COVID-19 variant.
 I will get sick from the COVID shot.	Acknowledge some people may experience mild side effects (i.e., soreness/minor swelling) and give assurance that the vaccine does not cause illness and does not contain a "live virus."
 I feel healthy, so I don't have to worry.	As a dialysis patient or a staff member of a facility, you may be more vulnerable to infections, hospitalizations, complications, or spreading COVID-19 or influenza.

"Build Trust. Open Dialogue. Respect Choices."



Use the QR code to learn more about the information on this resource, or visit the ASN AIP website at: <https://bit.ly/3UDphDe>

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