Congratulations on getting vaccinated

and moving our community one step closer to healthy, but we aren't quite there yet. *Vaccines take time to provide their maximum protection. Here is what you can do now to continue to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.*

Even after getting vaccinated, it is essential that you:

☑ **Keep wearing a snug fitting mask in public or around unvaccinated people.**

☑ **Keep physical distancing in public or around unvaccinated people.**

☑ **Keep washing your hands frequently.**

☑ **Get tested! If you feel sick with COVID-like symptoms including cough, shortness-of-breath, runny nose, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell, get tested! Yes, even if you had the vaccine. These are not likely to be vaccine side effects.**

☑ **Quarantine If you have had a significant COVID-19 exposure and are not two weeks past your second shot (Moderna and Pfizer) or one shot (Johnson and Johnson).**

☑ **Report any side effects through the CDC V-safe project -**
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

☑ **Come back for your second shot when scheduled to maximize your protection.**

About the vaccines

1. Vaccines take time to provide protection. It takes two weeks after the second dose of Moderna and Pfizer for protection of about 90% effectiveness. And it is two weeks past your one-dose of Johnson and Johnson to get to about 65% protection from getting symptomatic illness. All three are even better at reducing the chance of hospitalization and deaths due to COVID-19 disease.

2.Vaccines are good, but not perfect. Even after after the waiting period, individuals are not 100% protected. That is why it is critical to continue to protect yourself and others using the strategies you already know – wear a mask, stay distanced, and wash your hands when you are in public, but you can relax more around other fully vaccinated people. If you are immunocompromised early studies indicate the vaccines may not be quite as effective, so check with your doctor before resuming activities.

3.We know the COVID-19 vaccines reduce symptomatic cases and save lives.
While data is still coming in, early reports indicate the vaccines also reduce transmission significantly, maybe by around 70% for prototype COVID-19. Transmission may be higher, however, in the case of some COVID-19 variants. While this is a great reduction you should still mask up and distance, especially around unvaccinated people who may be at risk for severe illness.