

Answering Teen Questions about COVID-19

Teens have SO MANY wonderful questions... but there are very few resources to help them better understand the COVID-19 pandemic. So we brought our youths' questions directly to our local public health experts! Learn what they said at wipatch.org/covid19response. We're sharing these questions in hopes that you can help validate the concerns of teens in YOUR life, work with them to find answers for YOUR community, and hopefully have a great conversation along the way!

- ▶ **How do you know when you should be tested?** Are there symptoms specific to COVID and not just the flu? How often should I be tested if I work with other people?
- ▶ **What are all my options for getting tested?** How can I set up an appointment to get tested - is that a thing? Is there transportation to testing centers? Do I need parent/guardian consent for testing? (*In Wisconsin the answer to that last one is YES!*)
- ▶ **When do I tell people I got tested?** Should they know right away? Only if it comes back positive? What if it comes back negative, am I good?
- ▶ **What does social distancing actually mean?** What are the real rules for inside and outside gatherings? Why aren't there any clear answers?
- ▶ **How can I hang out with my friends right now?** Are there any safe options? What if my friends aren't taking this as seriously as me? How can I tell them I still don't want to hang out, without them judging me?
- ▶ **How can I keep my family safe if I'm exposed?** Can I carry it into the house on my clothes? What if I share a bedroom?
- ▶ **Is there a difference between isolation and quarantine?** If I'm around someone who tested positive for COVID-19, but my test comes back negative, do I still quarantine for 14 days and get tested again later? What if I never develop symptoms in quarantine?
- ▶ **What is a 'close' contact?** Why don't I always have to get tested when someone I've been around tests positive?
- ▶ **Is becoming immune to COVID after having it a real thing?** How long does it last? If someone is immune can they still pass it to someone else?
- ▶ **How often can I wear the same mask?** Do I need to wash it daily? Does the type of mask matter? Can I wear it for many hours in a row or is that bad for me?
- ▶ **How are we getting COVID testing and information to low income families?** Will there be more testing locations? What resources exist in our community? Is there anything I should be doing?
- ▶ **What would you say to people who don't believe in the vaccine or choose not to get one?** How can I feel confident in a vaccine that is so new? How many people need to be vaccinated before a return to some sort of normal? How can I convince my friends and family to get it?
- ▶ **Why are communities of color more affected?** What is being done to help these communities out?
- ▶ **Is there a difference between state and local level restrictions around COVID?** Why? Who should I be paying attention to? What's going to happen with a new presidential administration?
- ▶ **How soon will things go back to normal?** What does college look like in fall 2021? Will I get to go back to school? When can I play sports again?

Is there any way for me to safely hang out with people this winter?

What does next year look like? How am I supposed to make big decisions without knowing more?

How can I trust this vaccine?

How can you help?

- ▶ ASK the young people in your life what questions or concerns they have about COVID-19, and admit that you have questions, too!
- ▶ WORK WITH THEM to find answers to the questions you don't know. We recommend information from cdc.gov/coronavirus, nytimes.com/coronavirus, and your local public health department.
- ▶ VISIT wipatch.org/covid19response to watch our videos from public health experts with your young person.
- ▶ DISCUSS the best way to respond to their social and relationship concerns.



Let's help them get some answers!