## Top Ten Reasons to Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19

1. **IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.** As of June 30th, 2021, more than 600,000 people in US and 3.4 million people worldwide have died due to COVID-19. All 3 vaccines significantly reduce your risk of having severe COVID-19 illness, hospitalization and death.

2. **COVID-19 INFECTION CAN LEAD TO OTHER POOR OUTCOMES.** While some people are asking “why should I vaccinate against something that has a 99% survival rate,” the question misses the full picture. COVID-19 can lead to hospitalization and severe organ damage. Some people also experience “long COVID” in which symptoms such as fatigue and pain persist for months after infection. We don’t know yet the long-term health effects that people who survived COVID-19 will experience later in life.

3. **EMERGENCE OF NEW VARIANTS.** The Delta variant is much more contagious than the original strain of the virus. This is causing new waves of infection and increased hospitalizations in areas with low vaccination rates. Vaccine are very effective in preventing severe disease from new variants. Also, the more people who are vaccinated, the less opportunity the virus has to mutate into new variants.

4. **REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.** Protect the older and more vulnerable members of our communities who may not be able to mount as effective an immune response to vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines reduce your risk of spreading COVID-19.

5. **PROTECT OUR CHILDREN.** Only people 12 and older are currently eligible for vaccination. While fortunately less common than in adults, severe disease can occur in children—in fact, COVID-19 was among the top 10 causes of pediatric deaths in 2020 in the U.S. Children can also suffer long-term effects including the life-threatening MIS-C. As of June 28, 2021, 4,196 cases of MIS-C have been identified. When people get vaccinated, they protect those who can’t by reducing the spread of disease.

6. **PROTECT OUR FUTURE CHILDREN.** Expectant mothers are at greater risk of having severe infection COVID-19 illness. They are at higher risk of preterm delivery and poor outcomes, putting both mother’s and baby’s lives at risk.

7. **REAL WORLD DATA DEMONSTRATE VACCINE SAFETY AND EFFICACY.** The vaccines underwent all phases of clinical trials prior to receiving Emergency Use Authorization. No steps from the regular process were skipped. Vaccines have been available to the public for several months and hundreds of millions of doses have been given. There is abundant evidence demonstrating their safety and effectiveness.

8. **MOST VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS ARE MODERATE AND TEMPORARY.** While you may experience some soreness in your arm or fever and chills after vaccination, these are easily treatable with over-the-counter pain medicine and usually only last for 24-48 hours. These side effects are usually not dangerous and are just a sign of your immune system doing its job. Severe side effects are extremely rare.

9. **THE BEST WAY WE CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL.** Help us return to normal. No one enjoys extra restrictions. Getting vaccinated is the best way to ensure that we will once again be able to go to simchas, send our children to school without interruption, enjoy an unrestricted davening, and safely spend time with grandparents without having to worry about getting them sick.

10. **OPEN UP YOUR WORLD.** Travel to Israel and other countries might not be allowed in the coming months if you have not been fully vaccinated.