Hey, Pops, here's hand sanitizer I picked up for you.

No problem. But I wish we could go to the store without face masks!

Thanks!

Yeah, masks help stop the virus from the outside so it doesn't enter our bodies and make us sick.

And protects other people from us in case we have the virus and don't know it!

Right!

Once we get vaccinated, it will protect us from the inside if the virus gets into our bodies.

You know, scientists have been working 24/7 on a COVID-19 vaccine, and some are ready!
Yeah, I've heard vaccines “train your immune system.” Is that like sports training? Ha!

Sort of! In most vaccines a dead or weak version of the virus or bacteria that causes the disease is put into your body.

The weak virus won't make you sick, but your body doesn't know that. So, your immune system starts fighting it to protect you.

Later, if the same kind of virus or bacteria enters your body, your immune system is ready to fight and can act so fast that you don't get sick!

My doctor said new COVID-19 vaccines are still being tested on people to make sure they work and are safe. She called it “clinical trials.”

She invited me to be part of a COVID-19 vaccine trial! I haven't decided.

We better learn to fight this!
To make sure the vaccine works for everyone, testing on people of different ages and backgrounds is **VERY** important.

For example, a vaccine only tested on young people with strong immune systems might seem to work. But, it might not work as well on older folks like me.

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Hey, remember that citizen science project we did? We learned about rules for human research that protect people’s freedom... health... safety... privacy. Are people in vaccine trials protected?

Good point!

Absolutely!

You know what, I AM going to do the vaccine trial. I’d like to do my part to Fight COVID-19!

Awesome! You’ll be helping a lot of people!
**Challenges to Health**

1. For life to get back to normal, we need the protection from COVID-19 that a vaccine offers.

   Some people think vaccines for diseases like measles aren’t needed anymore because they don’t infect lots of people. But if people stop getting vaccines, measles and other diseases will make many people sick again.

   Some people are scared to get vaccines. They worry about vaccine ingredients or the chance of a bad reaction. But, vaccines are safe and the chance of a bad reaction is tiny.

**Healthy Actions**

1. Vaccines prevent illness. Taking the vaccines your doctor recommends helps keep you and the people around you healthy.

2. Participating in clinical vaccine trials helps make sure the vaccine works well for all kinds of people.

3. Help your immune system protect you from disease. Sleeping enough, eating colorful fruits and vegetables, and exercising boost your immune system.