HOW DOES THE COVID-19 VACCINE WORK?
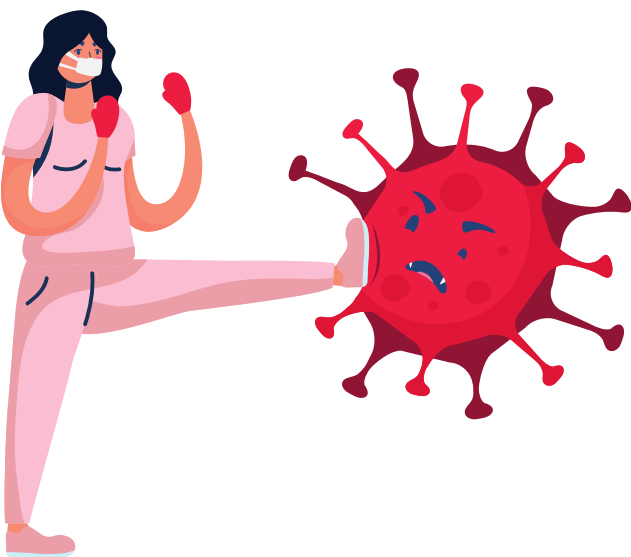
STEP 1: GET THE FIRST DOSE

In order to be as effective as possible, you **will need to take 2 doses** of the vaccine. Be sure to ask any questions you have about the vaccine.

STEP 2: THE VACCINE COMMUNICATES

COVID-19 vaccines **do not contain the virus** and **cannot cause infection or COVID-19**. They work by **giving your body the recipe** to make the protein that is on the outside of the coronavirus. When your body sees that protein, it will make protective antibodies to it. Later, **if the body sees the real virus**, it will remember seeing that protein and destroy the virus before it has a chance to make you sick.

STEP 3: DON'T SKIP YOUR 2ND DOSE

The vaccines are very effective only after the second dose. In studies, one vaccine was 95% effective 7 days after the second dose. This means you **must** get the second dose to be protected.

STEP 4: BETTER PROTECTION

Even after you get both doses, continue to be careful. Wash your hands, cover your face, avoid crowds, and avoid being around people who are sick.

Cherokee HEALTH SYSTEMS