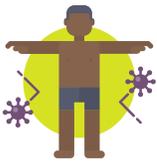


COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

ABOUT THE VACCINE



HOW DOES COVID-19 VACCINE WORK?

Vaccines work with your body's natural defenses so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. This is also called immunity. COVID-19 vaccination works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19, and this protects you from getting sick with the virus.

For more information on understanding how COVID-19 vaccines work, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work.html>



WILL THE VACCINE GIVE ME COVID-19?

No. There is no live virus in the vaccines, so they can't infect you.



HOW DID THEY MAKE THE VACCINE SO QUICKLY?

Many pharmaceutical companies invested significant resources into quickly developing a vaccine for COVID-19 because of the world-wide impact of the pandemic. Both Pfizer and Moderna used similar processes when developing their vaccine. Even though COVID-19 is new, these types of viruses (called coronaviruses) have been studied since the 1960s. This knowledge helped scientists understand the virus to make a vaccine.



HOW DO I REALLY KNOW IF COVID-19 VACCINES ARE SAFE?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) reviews all data before recommending any COVID-19 vaccine. More than 70,000 people of different ages, races, ethnicities, and medical conditions participated in clinical trials to make sure the vaccines meet safety standards and offer the protections we need.

For more information on ensuring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S., visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>



IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

The focus of COVID-19 vaccine development has been on adults. Pfizer's vaccine has been authorized for ages 16 and up. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are currently authorized for ages 18 and up.



I HAVE ALLERGIES. SHOULD I TAKE THE VACCINE?

CDC recommends that people with a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications—such as food, pet, venom, environmental, or latex allergies—get vaccinated. If you have concerns, consult your health care provider.

For information about COVID-19 vaccines for people with allergies, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/specific-groups/allergies.html>

IF I HAVE ALREADY HAD COVID-19 AND RECOVERED, DO I STILL NEED TO GET VACCINATED WITH A COVID-19 VACCINE?



Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. For more information about why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection than getting infected, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Experts are still learning more about how long vaccines protect against COVID-19 in real-world conditions. CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

IS THERE ANY REASON I SHOULDN'T GET THE VACCINE?



Because of age, health conditions, or other factors, some people should not get certain vaccines or should wait before getting them.

To learn more about who should **NOT** get the vaccine, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

I'M PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING; SHOULD I GET THE VACCINE?



According to the CDC, we don't yet have information about how safe it is for people who are pregnant to get a vaccine for COVID-19. However, they do state that if you are breastfeeding or are pregnant and are part of a group recommended to receive the vaccine, you may choose to be vaccinated. We suggest you talk with your health care provider so you can make an informed decision. To learn more about vaccination considerations for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>

DO I STILL HAVE TO WEAR A MASK AFTER GETTING THE VACCINE?



Yes. It's possible for you to spread the virus even after getting the vaccine. The vaccine is designed to stop the virus from making you sick. We don't yet know if the vaccine will stop you from spreading the virus so it's important to continue wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, socially distancing, and washing your hands frequently.

VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS

DO THE VACCINES WORK DIFFERENTLY OR HAVE DIFFERENT SIDE EFFECTS FOR PEOPLE OF DIVERSE AGES, RACIAL BACKGROUNDS, SEXES, AND OTHER DIFFERENCES?



Trial results have shown that the vaccines are safe and work well for adults of all ages, races, genders, and ethnic backgrounds.

HOW LONG WILL THE COVID-19 VACCINE LAST?

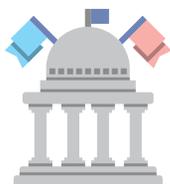


The research is not complete on this. Further research will tell us more about how long immunity lasts and if people will need more shots in the future.

DOES THE VACCINE STERILIZE WOMEN?



No. Stories and claims on social media and anti-vaccination websites saying that the vaccine interferes with the formation of the placenta are false. There is no evidence the vaccine would result in sterilization of women.



WHO IS PAYING FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINES?

The federal government is providing the vaccines free of charge to all people living in the United States. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET THE VACCINE?

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines currently available require two shots spaced 3–4 weeks apart. The first shot helps your body recognize the virus and helps prepare your immune system, and the second shot strengthens that immune response. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only 1 shot to be effective.



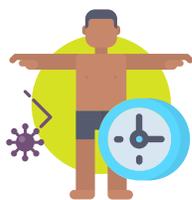
WHAT HAPPENS IF I ONLY GET 1 SHOT?

For the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, you need both shots to be fully protected. We strongly recommend that you get both shots. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires only 1 shot to be effective.



WILL I BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHICH VACCINE I GET?

No. The vaccine you get will be based on what your provider has available. All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be effective at preventing COVID-19.



HOW LONG DOES PROTECTION FROM A COVID-19 VACCINE LAST?

We don't know how long protection lasts for those who are vaccinated. What we do know is that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.

Experts are working to learn more about both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity. CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.



DO I NEED TO HAVE A COVID-19 TEST BEFORE I GET THE VACCINE?

No, you do not need a COVID-19 test before getting a vaccine.



CAN I STILL GET COVID-19 AFTER I GET THE VACCINE?

All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19. While it's possible you can still get COVID-19 and be sick even if you get the vaccination, most studies show that most people who get the vaccine, get less sick than those who do not get the vaccine. But until we can vaccinate everyone and because we don't know if the vaccine can stop you from spreading the virus, it's important to continue wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, socially distancing, and washing your hands frequently.

To learn more about the different COVID-19 vaccines, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>



CAN I GET VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 WHILE I AM CURRENTLY SICK WITH COVID-19?

No. People with COVID-19 who have symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have met the criteria for discontinuing isolation; those without symptoms should also wait until they meet the criteria before getting vaccinated. This guidance also applies to people who get COVID-19 before getting their second dose of vaccine.

For more information, visit:

- Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>

- Quarantine Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>



WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

Most people will have no side effects but the vaccine may cause side effects in some people. For most, side effects will last no longer than a day or two.

Possible side effects include:

On the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain, redness, and swelling

Throughout the **rest of** your body:

- Fever, chills, headache, tiredness, joint and body aches

To **reduce pain and discomfort** where you got the shot:

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area
- Use or exercise your arm

To reduce other symptoms, talk to your doctor about taking an over-the-counter medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Side effects are a sign that the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. They do NOT mean you have COVID-19. You can't get COVID-19 from the vaccine. If you have questions about your health after your shot, call your doctor, nurse, healthcare provider or clinic.



ARE THERE LONG-TERM SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

Because all COVID-19 vaccines are new, it will take more time and more people getting vaccinated to learn about very rare or possible long-term side effects.

VACCINE PLANNING



WHEN CAN I GET THE COVID-19 VACCINATION?

States will determine who will get vaccinated and when. Each state will outline plans that are based on who is most at risk for contracting the virus. It is best to check with your local and/or state health department for the most current information around vaccination in your area.

OTHER LINKS

THERE ARE SEVERAL SAFETY MONITORING SYSTEMS SET UP IN THE U.S., INCLUDING:

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe** and **effective**. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history. CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible. If you have any questions or want more information, please visit any of the links below to submit your questions or report any adverse events (possible side effects or health problems) that occur after vaccination.

- Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): www.vaers.hhs.gov
- Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD): www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/vsd/index.html
- Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment Project (CISA): www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/ensuringsafety/monitoring/cisa/index.html
- "V-Safe": www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html
- Vaccine Reporting Systems: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/reporting-systems.html>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring Systems for Pregnant People: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/monitoring-pregnant-people.html>





FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE, PLEASE VISIT: 24

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR VACCINATED PERSONS



INTERIM CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR USE OF MRNA COVID-19 VACCINES | CDC

At this time, vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance, and following any applicable workplace or school guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use or SARS-CoV-2 testing.

However, vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet all of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

For more information, visit:

- Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>
- CDC Guidance for Vaccinated Persons: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC Travel Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- Quarantine Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

Adapted from the Vaccine FAQs developed by the City & County of San Francisco