

COVID-19 VACCINES:

Key Facts and Frequently Asked Questions

KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION:

- Vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19.
- Vaccination is a safer way to help build protection (immunity).
- Vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe

All authorized COVID-19 vaccines meet FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines will continue undergoing the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history to make sure that they are safe.

COVID-19 Vaccines Cannot Make You Sick With COVID-19

None of the vaccines being used or tested in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that they cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Effective

Studies showed that COVID-19 vaccines were effective at keeping people from getting COVID-19 and from getting seriously ill even if they got COVID-19. It typically takes two weeks after you are fully vaccinated for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 Virus Variants and Vaccines

Scientists are studying different forms, or variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 to see whether existing vaccines will protect people against them. CDC, in collaboration with other public health agencies, is monitoring the situation closely.

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Here

The vaccines are available now and as supplies grow, more people will be able to receive a vaccine. To find a COVID-19 vaccine location near you visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/How-Do-I-Get-a-COVID-19-Vaccine.html>

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Free

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the U.S. NOTE: If you have insurance, vaccination providers can bill your health insurance for the administration fee. However, providers cannot charge you the balance of the bill.

Wear A Mask After Getting The Vaccine

Scientists are still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. After you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should keep taking precautions in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces until we know more.

If You've Been Fully Vaccinated:

- You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

VACCINE SAFETY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

COVID-19 can cause serious illness or even death. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you. A COVID-19 vaccine greatly reduces the risk that you will develop COVID-19. In clinical trials, COVID-19 vaccines have been highly effective at preventing severe cases of COVID-19 that require hospital care or cause death.

Do I still need the vaccine if I've already had COVID-19 and recovered

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.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes! COVID-19 vaccines being used in the United States meet FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the United States since December 14, 2020, and all COVID vaccines being used here will continue to be monitored for safety.

How can COVID-19 vaccines be safe since they were developed so fast?

Vaccine development was done quickly because it was well-funded and used both proven and new technology. Also, vaccines were manufactured while safety data was still being reviewed by scientists, doctors, and other experts.

Will the shot make me sick?

Some people might get sore muscles, feel tired, or have mild fever after getting the vaccine, but most people report only a sore arm where they got the shot. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. For most people, these side effects will go away on their own in a few days. If you have any concerns, call your health care provider.

Why are people having allergic reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine?

A few people have had allergic reactions called anaphylaxis after getting a COVID-19 vaccine but were treated and have recovered. Your doctor can help you decide if it is safe for you to be vaccinated.

What does "fully vaccinated" mean?

According to the CDC, you're not considered fully vaccinated until it's been at least two weeks since your second dose of a two-dose series like Pfizer's or Moderna's vaccine, or it's been two weeks since you received a single-dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson's.



Additional Resources

www.midwestlaborers.org

www.lhsfna.org

wecandothis.hhs.gov

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus