COVID-19 VACCINE COMMON QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

**What are the kinds of COVID-19 vaccines and how do they work?**

Right now, there are three approved vaccines, from the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson companies. The ones available to you depend on overall supply and the vaccination site. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines work the same way. They contain a small piece of the virus, but not the whole thing. Getting the vaccine trains your body to recognize the virus and kill it. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is different. It uses a dead common cold virus to get a small piece of the COVID-19 virus into your body. It only requires one dose. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine doesn’t protect quite as well against mild cases of COVID-19, but it does protect as well against severe illness.

**What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

It may hurt a little where you got the shot. You may also be tired, get a fever, and have head or body aches. These side effects are good! They mean your body is getting immune. Very rarely, a person has an allergic reaction to the vaccine right after getting it. That is why patients must wait 15-30 minutes after getting the vaccine.

**Can the vaccine give me or my family COVID-19?**

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines being used in the United States have live viruses, so they can’t give you the disease. And because you won’t have the live virus, you can’t give it to your family.

**I don’t need a vaccine because for most young/healthy people, COVID-19 isn't very serious.**

Some young and healthy people get very sick with COVID-19 and even die from it. Others don’t know they have it. These people are the ones who spread COVID-19 the most. Scientists think many cases are caught from someone without symptoms. So even if you are young and/or healthy, getting the vaccine is important. It will keep the virus from getting other people sick, especially older people and those with health conditions.

**Has anyone died from the COVID-19 vaccine?**

No one has died from the COVID-19 vaccine in the United States. But if you are over 80 years old, high risk, or very ill, talk with your healthcare provider about what to do.

**I always get sick from the flu shot, so vaccines are not good for me.**

Vaccine side effects are signs that your body is getting immune. Isn’t it better to feel a little sick from the flu shot than to be one of the thousands of people who die from influenza every year? And isn’t it better to feel a little sick from the COVID-19 vaccine than to be one of the almost half million Americans who have died in the pandemic?

**I already had COVID-19. Do I still need the vaccine?**

Yes. You can get COVID-19 a second time. If you were treated with antibodies or plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting the vaccine.

**Can getting the COVID-19 vaccine affect my immigration status in any way?**

Everyone should get the vaccine, including immigrants, no matter their status. Getting the vaccine will not affect anything to do with immigration. You won’t be considered a public charge because of it. The law is that healthcare providers must keep patient information confidential.

**I’m trying to have a baby, pregnant, or nursing. Should I still get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Getting the vaccine has not made women infertile. Scientists still don’t know much about pregnancy or nursing and the vaccine. But pregnant women can get very sick with COVID-19. If you are pregnant or nursing, talk with your healthcare provider about what’s best for you and your baby.