

# Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19

## VACCINE SAFETY

### 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.

### 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 hurt or make me sick?

No. 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 doctor or nurse.

### 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.

### **Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?**

You cannot get COVID-19 from any of the COVID-19 vaccines in use or being tested in the United States because none of them contains the live virus that causes the disease.

### **Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?**

Yes. People who want to get pregnant in the future can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Experts believe that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to a person trying to become pregnant in the short or long term.

### **Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for people who are pregnant?**

Yes. If you are pregnant, you may choose to be vaccinated when it's available to you. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problem with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta.

People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them. There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. There is no routine recommendation for taking a pregnancy test before you get a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with a healthcare provider may help you make an informed decision.

### **Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for people with certain underlying medical conditions?**

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to most people with underlying medical conditions once vaccine is available to them. If you have questions about getting COVID-19 vaccine, you should talk to your healthcare providers for advice. Inform your vaccination provider about all your allergies and health conditions.

## **VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS**

### **How do COVID-19 vaccines work?**

Vaccines train our immune system to recognize the COVID virus and make cells to fight the virus. With vaccines, we can build immunity to a disease without getting the disease.

### **How long do COVID-19 vaccines last?**

We don't know right now how long COVID-19 vaccines protect people, but clinical trials are investigating this. What we do know is that among people who were vaccinated in clinical trials of the vaccines now available, the vaccines were highly effective at preventing severe cases of COVID that required hospital care or caused death. In these trials, vaccines were up to 94% effective in protecting volunteers from getting COVID-19 at all compared to people who received a placebo.

### **Do I need to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I've already had COVID-19?**

Yes. Scientists do not yet know how long natural antibodies in people who have had COVID-19 will protect them from being re-infected.

### **Will the COVID-19 vaccine prevent me from infecting others?**

COVID-19 vaccines reduce the likelihood that you will develop and be able to spread COVID-19. More studies are needed to determine whether a vaccinated person who is infected despite vaccination is less likely to infect others.

### **Do the vaccines work on the new COVID variants?**

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 and will release more information when it is available.

## **VACCINE AVAILABILITY**

### **When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The vaccines are available now and as supplies grow, more people will be able to receive a vaccine.

### **How much will the COVID-19 vaccine cost?**

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States.

### **Do I need to wear a mask after getting the vaccine?**

If you've been fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask when:

- You gather indoors with fully vaccinated people
- You gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

You do need to wear a mask in public places, when visiting people from multiple households, or when around anyone with an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

# Key Things to Know About COVID-19

## 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. [Learn more.](#)

## 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. [Learn more.](#)

## 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. [Learn more.](#)

## 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. [Learn more.](#)

## COVID-19 vaccines are here

The vaccines are available now and as supplies grow, more people will be able to receive a vaccine. [Learn more.](#)

## COVID-19 vaccines are free

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States. [Learn more.](#)

## Wear a mask after getting the vaccine

We're 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. [Learn more.](#)

# What Fully Vaccinated People Need to Know

Once someone is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, they can start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

## When is Someone Fully Vaccinated?

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines

## Fully Vaccinated People Can:

- Gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask.
- 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](#).
- If they have been around someone who has COVID-19, they do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless they have symptoms.
  - However, if they live in a group setting (like a correctional or detention facility or group home) and are around someone who has COVID-19, they should still stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if they don't have symptoms.

## Fully Vaccinated People Should Continue To:

Take steps [to protect themselves and others](#) in many situations, like wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces. Precautions should be taken whenever they are:

- In public
- Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
- Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at [increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19](#) or who lives with a person at increased risk

Avoid medium or large-sized gatherings.

Delay domestic and international travel. If they do travel, they still need to follow CDC [requirements and recommendations](#).

Watch out [for symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if they've been around someone who is sick. If they have symptoms of COVID-19, they should get tested and stay home and away from others.

Follow guidance at their workplace.

Public health officials continue to update recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. For the latest guidance, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>