

COVID-19 vaccination key facts



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-myths.html>

COVID-19 vaccines can not give you COVID-19

People who have already gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated

Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 **viral** tests*



*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>

Q: How do we know if COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

- FDA carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials.
- FDA authorizes emergency vaccine use only when the expected benefits outweigh potential risks.
- ACIP reviews safety data before recommending any vaccine for use.
- FDA and CDC will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines to make sure even very rare side effects are identified.

“COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trials to make sure they meet safety standards. Many people were recruited to participate in these trials to see how the vaccines offer protection to people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as those with different medical conditions.”



Q: Have these vaccines been tested in people like me?

- The clinical trials recruited a diverse mix of participants.
- No serious safety concerns were identified.

“The first two mRNA vaccines in line for FDA authorization were tested in a diverse group of people. About 30% of U.S. participants were Hispanic, African American, Asian or Native American. About half were older adults. There were no significant safety concerns identified in these or any other groups.”



Q: Is it better to get natural immunity rather than immunity from vaccines?

- The potential serious risk COVID-19 poses to them and their loved ones if they get the illness or spread it to others, adding that the disease can be serious even if they are not in a high-risk group.
- Scientists are still learning more about the virus that causes COVID-19. It is not known whether getting COVID-19 disease will protect everyone against getting it again or, if it does, how long that protection might last.

“Both this disease and the vaccine are new. We don’t know how long protection lasts for those who get infected or 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 sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.”



Q: Will the shot hurt? Will it make me sick? What about the side effects?

- You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- The most common side effects from vaccination are, how severe they may be, and that they typically go away on their own within a week.
 - Fever is a potential side effect.

“These side effects are signs that your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. It is working and building up protection to disease.”

“Most people do not have serious problems after getting a vaccine. We will understand more about mild side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine before we start to use it. However, your arm may be sore, red, or warm to the touch. These symptoms usually go away on their own within a week. Some people report getting a headache, fever, fatigue, or body aches after getting a vaccine. “



Q: How do we know these vaccines are safe when they are so new? What about long-term side effects?

- The FDA and CDC are continuing to monitor safety.
- ACIP will take action to address any potential safety problems detected.
- The potential serious risk of COVID-19 illness with what is currently known about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

“COVID-19 vaccines are being tested in large clinical trials to learn more about their safety and effectiveness. However, it does take time and more people getting vaccinated before we can learn about very rare or long-term side effects. That is why safety monitoring will continue. CDC has an independent group of experts that reviews all the safety data as they come in and provides regular safety updates. Any possible problems will be quickly investigated to find out if the issue is related to the COVID-19 vaccine and determine the best course of action.”



Q: How many doses are needed and why?

- Two shots are needed to provide the best protection against COVID-19 for both mRNA vaccines. The first shot primes the immune system, helping it recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune response.
- COVID-19 vaccines may differ in the number of doses needed and the spacing between doses.

“Nearly all COVID-19 vaccines being studied in the United States require two shots. The first shot starts building protection, but everyone has to come back a few weeks later for the second one to get the most protection the vaccine can offer.”



Protect yourself, your family, friends, coworkers, patients, and community. Get vaccinated.

- Choose to get vaccinated yourself when it is available to you.
- Participate in **v-safe** and help CDC monitor for any health effects after vaccination.
- Share your experience with coworkers, friends, and family.
- Know the basics about the COVID-19 vaccine. Help answer questions from your family and friends.
- Visibly show you received a vaccine, such as by wearing a sticker or button.



Learn more!

The screenshot shows the CDC website's COVID-19 Vaccines page. At the top left is the CDC logo and the text "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" with the tagline "CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™". To the right is a search bar with "COVID-19" entered and a search icon. Below the search bar is a banner for "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" featuring a collage of people wearing masks and the text "WEAR A MASK.". A navigation menu includes "Your Health", "Community, Work & School", "Healthcare Workers & Labs", "Health Depts", "Cases & Data", and "More". The "Your Health" section is active, showing a sidebar with "Things You Need to Know", "Symptoms", "Testing", and "Vaccines" (which is expanded to show "8 Things to Know", "About COVID-19 Vaccines", "Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines", "How CDC is Making Vaccine Recommendations", "Ensuring the Safety of Vaccines", and "Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccines W..."). The main content area is titled "Vaccines" and includes the text "Updated Nov. 20, 2020" and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Below this is a large image of a healthcare worker in a white coat and mask administering a vaccine to a woman in a pink shirt who is also wearing a black face mask. A text overlay on the image reads: "Safety Is a Top Priority. The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. [Learn more.](#)". At the bottom of the page is a dark teal banner with the URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>