

# YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...

# LET'S TALK ABOUT THEM!

Make sure you have all the facts about the COVID-19 vaccines.



**How safe is the vaccine? It was created quickly...**

All COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States are safe and very effective at preventing COVID-19 illness. The COVID-19 vaccines were tested with tens of thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults of different races, ethnicities, and ages.

**Will I feel sick after I get the vaccine?**

First of all, you can't get COVID-19 from the vaccine. But after you get the vaccine, you could have some side effects. These side effects include headaches, feeling tired, or having a stomachache. The most common side effect is feeling sore or swollen where you got the shot. These side effects are normal! They are signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may be unpleasant for 1-3 days, but they are not dangerous. If you don't have side effects, don't worry – your body is still building protection.

**I've already had COVID-19. Do I still need a vaccine?**

Yes. You should get the vaccine even if you have already had COVID-19. Some people have gotten COVID-19 more than once. The vaccine also offers more protection against reinfection than your body could develop on its own from already having COVID-19.

**COVID-19's survival rate is high. Do I really need the vaccine?**

While most people who get COVID-19 recover, some develop serious health issues that can affect them for a long time. By getting the vaccine, you lessen your risk of getting sick or being hospitalized with COVID-19. You also are helping to reduce spread of COVID-19.

**What's in the vaccines?**

You can find the ingredient lists of all vaccines on their websites. None of the vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. Instead, these vaccines contain "instructions" from the virus so that your body can learn how to create the proteins needed to fight it.

**How many vaccine doses do I need? One or two?**

The Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine requires one shot. The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require two shots. For those vaccines, it is important to get both shots to gain the most protection. Before you leave the vaccination site, make an appointment to get the second shot 3-4 weeks after the first shot, depending on the vaccine. This is the recommended time to get your second shot.

**Is the vaccine safe for children?**

In May 2021, the Pfizer vaccine was approved anyone age 12 and up after months of testing. Additional trials are underway for the other vaccines and additional age groups. As with all COVID-19 vaccine testing, every study, every phase, and every trial to determine the vaccine is safer for children was reviewed by the FDA and a vaccine safety group.

**Is the vaccine free to me?**

Yes - The COVID-19 vaccine is free to everyone, regardless of insurance or immigration status. When you go to get your vaccine, you might be asked for your insurance card or your Medicaid or Medicare information. Why? The place where you are getting the vaccine might charge a small fee to your insurance company or the government. This charge cannot be passed on to you. You cannot be denied a vaccine if you do not have insurance. If you don't have insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid, just say so. You still get the vaccine for free.