

# COVID-19 VACCINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS?

## **Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The vaccine will help protect you from getting COVID-19. If you still get infected after you get vaccinated, the vaccine may prevent serious illness. By getting vaccinated, you can also help protect people around you.

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

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use or in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. However, it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it is possible to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination.

## **If I already had COVID-19 do I still need to get vaccinated?**

Yes. The CDC recommends that you get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19, because you can catch it more than once. While you may have some short-term antibody protection after recovering from COVID-19, it is not known how long this protection lasts.

## **Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?**

All COVID-19 vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards.

## **Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have an underlying medical condition?**

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying health problems like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.

## **Why do I need two COVID-19 shots?**

Currently authorized vaccines, and most vaccines under development, require two doses of vaccine. The first shot helps the immune system recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune response. You need both to get the best protection.

## **What may I experience after receiving the vaccine?**

As with any vaccine there may be side effects, but they should go away within a few days. Possible side effects include a sore arm, headache, fever, or body aches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. Side effects are signs that the vaccine is working to build immunity. If they do not go away within a week, or you have more serious symptoms, call your doctor.

## **When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available?**

The vaccine is currently being distributed to healthcare professionals and those individuals who are the most vulnerable. As additional vaccines are approved, vaccinations will be made available to the general public. The CDC anticipates there to be enough vaccine in 2021 to vaccinate those interested in receiving it.

## **If I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes, COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now or who might become pregnant in the future. Patients are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider for more information.

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