



Common questions and concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine

1) How much does the vaccine cost to receive?

The COVID-19 vaccine is completely free!

2) Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. There are several different types of vaccines in development. All of them teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

3) If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

4) Will a COVID-19 vaccine change my DNA or genes?

No. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your genes in any way. Instead, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.

1. <https://app.lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/vaccine.htm>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

5) If I have severe food allergies, should I not get the vaccine?

There are three vaccines currently approved against COVID-19, and none of these contain eggs, latex or preservatives. These vaccines cause little to no reactions among most individuals who have taken it. The FDA has approved the vaccines, deeming them very safe to use.

6) Exactly HOW effective are the COVID-19 vaccines that are currently available?

Both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have proven to be about 95% effective at preventing illness from COVID-19. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is 66% effective at preventing illness from COVID-19. All are very effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

7) What are the side effects of getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

Side effects show that your body is building protection against infections and viruses. Some side effects an individual might experience after getting the vaccine might be: fever, chills, tiredness, headache, and a little bit of swelling in the arm that received the shot. Very few people experience serious side effects. Just in case, you will be asked to wait 15 minutes after receiving your shot before leaving.

8) Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe for me to get?

Yes! Over 76 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have safely been given in the United States since December 2020. Before they were given to patients, COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met the FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization. Additionally, years of prior scientific research contributed to the rapid development and study of the vaccines that have been approved. Their development builds on years of research by scientists.

9) I am muslim - are the vaccines halal?

No pork products are in the Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, or Johnson and Johnson vaccines.



5. <https://healthblog.uofmhealth.org/wellness-prevention/not-sure-about-covid-19-vaccine-get-facts-then-decide>
6. <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-03-05/with-3-covid-vaccines-approved-is-there-a-best-shot>
7. <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/is-the-covid19-vaccine-safe>
8. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00290-x>
9. <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2021-03-05/with-3-covid-vaccines-approved-is-there-a-best-shot>