

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

Why are both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine important?

If you received a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, you need two doses to be fully protected. (Janssen, also known as Johnson & Johnson, is a one-dose vaccine).

The first dose prepares your immune system to respond if it comes across the virus. The second dose makes your cells produce large amounts of antibodies. This process helps your body practice before it encounters the real virus. You're considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving your second dose. The vaccines' effectiveness at preventing the COVID-19 infection are 95%.

Is it safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am breastfeeding, pregnant, or want to become pregnant?

Yes. There is no evidence that getting vaccinated against COVID-19 leads to complications during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccination can protect you against severe illness from COVID-19 and help keep your baby safe.

How do we know COVID-19 vaccines are safe for kids?

Thousands of children participated in the clinical trials where the vaccination was shown to be safe and effective at preventing COVID-19.

In the United States, over 20 million children and adolescents ages 5-17 have been safely vaccinated. The FDA and CDC will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines among adults and children.

If my child or I have had COVID-19, do we need to get vaccinated?

Yes. You should get vaccinated against COVID-19 even if you've already had COVID-19.

A recent study found that unvaccinated individuals are more than twice as likely to be reinfected with COVID-19 than those who had COVID-19 and then got vaccinated.

What are common side effects of COVID-19 vaccinations?

Both children and adults who've gotten a COVID-19 vaccination may have the same common side effects, including:

- Pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

These side effects are normal and typically last for a couple of days after vaccination.

The side effects are signs that the vaccine is working and that your body is building protection against the virus.

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

No. There is no virus in the vaccine. The vaccine helps your body recognize the COVID –19 virus and creates a strong immune response against it.

Why should I get my vaccine now instead of waiting for more information?

While the COVID-19 vaccine was developed quickly, the vaccines were made using scientific processes that have been developed and tested over many years.

These specific vaccines were extensively tested by independent scientists, and more than 200 million people in the U.S. have been safely vaccinated.

Why should I get my child vaccinated now instead of waiting for more information?

The benefits of the COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the potential risks. One of the biggest benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine is protection from the serious side effects of COVID.

As of mid-October 2021, children ages 5-11 have experienced more than 8,300 COVID-19-related hospitalizations and nearly 100 deaths from COVID-19. In fact, COVID-19 ranks as one of the top 10 causes of death for children ages 5-11.

Sources: US Dept of Health and Human Services (HHS.gov), Centers for Disease Control (CDC.gov), Johns Hopkins Medicine (hopkinsmedicine.org)

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