

How Do I Decide Whether to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?



How Your Life Will Change if Vaccinated

- The vaccine is free. No information is collected about you when you receive a vaccine, other than what is needed for your care.
- Once fully vaccinated, which is 2 weeks after receiving your final vaccine dose, you can be with other vaccinated friends without masks or social distancing. You may also get together indoors without masks around unvaccinated people who are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection. In contrast, people who are not fully vaccinated still need to wear masks and socially distance with anyone not living with them.
- More relaxations of the rules are likely in the coming weeks and months for people who are fully vaccinated. There may be a “vaccine passport” that will allow vaccinated people to do things more easily in society than people who do not get the vaccine. For example, go to work or school without restriction or go to restaurants and entertainment without restriction.

Some Questions and Answers



Question

Was the vaccine review process OK? Seems like they moved too quickly and didn't give out enough information.

Answer

The vaccine tests followed all of the standard rules. Safety was a top priority in developing them. They were tested in very large clinical trials where they were shown to protect people from getting very sick or dying from COVID-19. Experts all over the world have agreed that they are ready and safe.

The vaccines are currently approved by the government under an “emergency use authorization.” Emergency use does not mean it is risky to take the vaccine. Instead, it allows us to receive the vaccine quickly and to reduce the death and suffering from COVID-19. Emergency use is the part of the law that allows approval of treatments to combat public health emergencies. During the COVID-19 health emergency, the government has approved a number of medical products under emergency use authorization including vaccines and personal protective equipment used by healthcare providers.

Common Questions and Answers

- Q** Can I take a "wait-and-see approach" and wait to get the vaccine once I see that others are okay?
- A** Vaccines prevent COVID-19 infection in roughly 95 out of 100 people who would otherwise get it. They prevent hospitalization and death in ALL people who received a vaccine! If enough people get vaccinated, everyone is safer. The virus mostly disappears when most people are protected by the vaccine.
- Q** Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain some bad ingredients that might harm people?
- A** No, the vaccines only contain ingredients that are needed to help your body fight the virus.
- Q** What information will the government or insurance collect from me?
- A** Only the information that is needed to provide the vaccine.
- Q** Will the vaccine change my DNA?
- A** It does not change or harm your DNA. It gives instructions for your own body to produce a response that fights the virus.
- Q** What if I have a bad reaction to it? I hear it can make people pretty sick.
- A** Allergic reactions to the vaccine are very rare and have happened mainly in people with a history of severe allergic reactions. 35-40 out of 100 people have reactions such as headache, being tired, or fever for a few hours or perhaps a day or two. This is normal and shows your body is ready to fight the virus.
- Q** I hear the virus is changing all the time. What if the vaccine doesn't work because of the changes?
- A** The vaccines protect us against COVID-19. Getting enough people vaccinated quickly may limit the danger of the virus changing further.
- Q** Will the vaccine impact my symptoms or change the effect of medications I'm taking?
- A** It's safe for people with mental health problems, and it does not change the effects of psychiatric medications.
- Q** I am young; how serious a problem is COVID-19 for me anyways?
- A** Although young people tend to do better with COVID-19, they can still develop long-term problems; they can also infect others around them even if they don't get very sick.
- Q** How many shots will I need and how quickly do they work?
- A** There are several COVID-19 vaccines approved for use. Many require 2 shots, separated by 3 or 4 weeks. Some require a single shot. You are considered "fully vaccinated" 2 weeks after the final (or only) shot. We don't yet know if the vaccine works beyond one year.

For More Information:

Visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/vaccines/facts-covid-vaccines-english-508.pdf> to learn more about vaccines

Visit: <https://apple.news/Am0c7671jSk2qXh9ENSYjlg> to learn how to access a vaccine in each state in the US