**COVID-19 Vaccination: Frequently Asked Questions**

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| How do I know the Covid-19 vaccine is safe? |
| * Safety is the most important requirement for the vaccine and is assessed in trials by independent experts. * The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advises a minimum of 3,000 participants to access safely. The phase 3 trials for COVID-19 vaccines have 30,000 to 50,000 participants. This really demonstrates how safety is a top priority for the FDA and the medical community*.* |

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| How is the vaccine developed and tested? |
| Approval of a vaccine involves multiple phases with measuring effectiveness and safety in different people. There are several phases, and the vaccine must meet very intense safety criteria before completing each phase. Once a vaccine is approved for use, it has been tested in tens of thousands of people and if no significant harmful side effects are noted, it is considered safe for use. |

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| What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and is it safe? |
| *An EUA is based on the need to use a vaccine quickly to save lives during an urgent health crisis. You may be anxious about the speed with which the COVID-19 vaccine has been approved. While the EUA is shorter process, no steps are skipped in the safety evaluation process.* |

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| Will it cost me anything to get the vaccine? |
| No, there is no cost to you. The vaccine is free for everyone. |

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| Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine? |
| NO. The goal of the vaccine is to give your body the tools it needs to fight COVID-19 effectively and/or prevent you from getting it at all. |

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| Will I have to get 1 shot or 2 shots? |
| Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require 2 doses to be effective, given about 3-4 weeks apart. This is to make sure your body has enough antibodies to fight COVID-19. Getting 2 doses within 3-4 weeks has been shown to be safe and there are other vaccines that have been used for years that require multiple doses without causing harm. |

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| When will I be protected after getting the vaccine? |
| * Even when people receive the vaccine they will not be immediately protected and will need to continue wearing masks, social distancing, and practicing frequent hand hygiene. * Protection will usually occur about 2 weeks after the second shot. * While no vaccine is 100% effective, the COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated to be more than 90% effective. This will greatly reduce your risk of getting sick with COVID-19 and spreading it to others. |

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| What if I had COVID-19 or I took a test that showed I have antibodies? Should I get the vaccine? |
| * Yes, even if you have had COVID-19, it is safe and will add additional protection without causing any harm. If you have had a test that shows you have COVID-19 antibodies, you should still get the vaccine. It is safe and can increase your protection form future COVID-19 infections. |

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| What are some of the possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine? Will the vaccine make me sick? |
| * The vaccine can cause short-term discomfort (such as headache, muscle pains, fatigue, chills, fever, and pain at the injection site) in a percentage of the people who receive them. This is the effect of your body developing immunity. Clinical trial participants reported that the discomfort went away after a day, or sometime sooner. When you receive the second dose of the vaccine, the discomfort can be more pronounce. This is a normal reaction. * If you experience discomfort after the first dose of the vaccine, it is very important that you still receive the second dose a few weeks later for the vaccine to be effective. * **This does not mean that the vaccine has given you COVID-19.** Rather, this means that the vaccine is causing your body’s immune system to react and create antibodies to fight off the vaccine. * In some cases, a person may already be infected with COVID-19 when they get the vaccine but are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. If they later have symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for it, it *does not* mean they got COVID-10 from the vaccine. |

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| What if I have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine? |
| * Talk to your Doctor/provider and ask any questions that you may have. * It will be important to get your information from reliable sources, such as the CDC ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) , the Immunization Action Coalition (<https://www.immunize.org> ), and other providers.   Social media is full of misinformation and opinions based on that misinformation. We recommend that you use visit one of the professional organizations above. |