



FAQ

Q1: Will the COVID-19 vaccine affect women's fertility?

A1: The COVID-19 vaccine does not affect fertility. The vaccine teaches the body's immune system to fight the virus. During Pfizer vaccine tests, 23 women in the study became pregnant and the only one who suffered a pregnancy loss had received the placebo; not the vaccine. Conversely, catching the COVID-19 virus can have a potentially serious impact on pregnancy and a mother's health.

Q2: If I've already had COVID-19, do I need a vaccine?

A2: Because of severe health risks associated with COVID-19, even those who previously had COVID-19 should get vaccinated. Evidence also shows a strong risk of re-infection and studies suggest natural immunity may not last long.

Q3: Isn't natural immunity healthier and more effective than vaccine immunity?

A3: Vaccines allow you to build immunity without the damaging, life-threatening effects that vaccine-preventable diseases can have. Vaccination is the best way to prevent them.

Q4: Didn't researchers rush the development of the COVID-19 vaccine and therefore, the effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted?

A4: The vaccines were created using a method that has been in development for years. Vaccine developers did not skip steps, but instead used an overlapping schedule to gather data more quickly. They began working on these vaccines early, allowing them to be ahead of schedule once FDA approval was received. Studies have found that the vaccines are 95% effective and have not shown any life-threatening side effects thus far.

Q5: If these vaccines only have emergency use authorization, not full FDA approval why should I get it?

A5: The widely-available Pfizer/ BioNTech vaccine now has full FDA approval [as of Aug. 23, 2021]. Meanwhile, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have been granted emergency use authorization from the FDA, not full approval yet. Emergency use authorization does not mean they are any less safe, as the FDA reviewed the vaccines with the same level of scrutiny as they would to get full approval. Full approval takes 1-2 years of follow-up, but with the contagious nature of the virus, we need to act fast.

Q6: Are there serious long-term side effects of getting the vaccine?

A6: The most serious side effects for any vaccine show up in the first six weeks, which is why the FDA waited at least two months after trial participants received the vaccine before providing emergency use authorization. While long-term vaccine side effect risks are low, "long haul COVID-19" is real. Symptoms of the disease can have long-term consequences, even for young people who consider their risk of severe COVID-19 to be low. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is the best possible defense for avoiding long haul COVID-19.

Q7: Why do I need to be vaccinated since most people around me have been vaccinated?

A7: Only a small portion of the US population has been vaccinated and most are over the age of 65. As the US opens back up, the need for mass vaccination becomes even more important. Even if your friends and family are vaccinated, vaccines are not 100% effective, and not everyone can get the vaccine [such as people on cancer treatments or those with weakened immune systems]. If you are unvaccinated, you can spread viral particles more easily, allowing the virus time to mutate and infect others.

Q8: If I am young and healthy, why do I need to get the vaccine?

A8: It's critical for young, healthy adults to get vaccinated as the highly contagious Delta variant is affecting more young people than the original. Young people can be victims, even with strong immunity and can suffer from cytokine storms causing immune systems to overreact. This causes serious symptoms such as chronic fatigue, brain fog, chest pain and shortness of breath that can persist up to nine months after infection and some people even need heart-lung machines and transplants to keep them alive.

Q9: Will I get COVID-19 or get sick from the vaccine?

A9: It is impossible to get COVID-19 from any of the vaccines used in the US because none of them contain the real coronavirus. Vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight viruses. Sometimes, this process can cause symptoms, such as fever, but this is normal and is a sign that the body is building protection against the virus. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination, which means it is possible that a person could get COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

Q10: Will the COVID-19 vaccine change my DNA?

A10: No. They vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. It never enters the nucleus of our cells, which is where our DNA is kept, meaning it cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way.

Q11: Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause me to be magnetic?

A11: No. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain any metals or microelectronics, which can be used as tracking devices.

Q12: Does the COVID-19 vaccines deliver a microchip into my body?

A12: No. There is not a microchip in the vaccines. No electronic components have been tied to the development, testing or distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Q13: I heard the COVID-19 vaccines contain aborted fetal tissue?

A13: Current vaccines do not contain any fetal tissue. Neither the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine nor the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines contain fetal cells nor were fetal cells used in the development or production of either vaccine. Johnson & Johnson used lab-replicated fetal cell lines during its production process, but the vaccine itself does not contain any fetal cells.

Q14: Do vaccines cause autism?

A14: Vaccines do not cause autism. In 1998, British doctor Andrew Wakefield conducted research that claimed a connection between autism and the measles, mumps, and rubella [MMR] vaccine. This study was later retracted and found to be unethical and not factual, causing Wakefield to lose his license in the United Kingdom.

Q15: I heard I shouldn't get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am allergic to eggs.

A15: Neither the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine nor the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines contain eggs, nor were eggs used in the development or production of either vaccine. However, those with severe allergic reactions (to eggs or any other substance) are encouraged to remain at the vaccination site for observation for 30 minutes after receiving the vaccine.

Q16: If I get the COVID-19 vaccine won't I go "poof"?

A16: Many of us in the medical community as well as many of our friends and families have received various COVID-19 vaccines and we are still here to educate the community on the benefits of getting vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and they are the safest way to help build protection. The longer we wait, the more the virus will mutate, and the more lives that will be affected. Let's all save lives together.

To look for a particular vaccine available near you, you can access the website [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)