

Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccines

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

No, you cannot get the virus from getting the shot. None of the COVID-19 vaccines use a live or active form of the COVID-19 virus. For this reason, the vaccine cannot give you the Coronavirus disease.

You might feel some side effects for a while after getting the vaccine. The side effects are usually mild, and you do not need to get treatment or change your day to day activities. The feelings or side effects are signs that your body is working to protect you from the disease.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as all vaccines. These shots were tested in tens of thousands of adults from different backgrounds, which include older adults and communities of color. In the studies, all the COVID-19 vaccines have shown that they help prevent you from getting sick from COVID-19.

Are the vaccines effective in protecting me from COVID-19?

Research shows that the vaccines work. The vaccines are very effective at preventing you from getting sick from the COVID-19 disease and preventing you from needing to go the hospital. Full protection takes about 14 days after you finish getting the vaccine shot or shots. Some of the vaccines require 2 shots, while others only require one shot. If you take the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine, one shot will give you full protection. Please know that this is early information and we do not know how long the protection will last. We also don't know if a person is still able to carry and spread the COVID-19 infection after getting the vaccine.

What COVID-19 Vaccines will be offered?

The U.S Food and Drug administration known as the FDA, has given permission to use three (3) vaccines to reduce your chances of getting COVID-19 disease. The 3 vaccines are from the companies called Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson); and all are proven to be safe. Pfizer vaccine has been approved for people 16 years old and older and the Moderna and Janssen vaccines, have been approved for 18 years old and older.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have two shots. For the Pfizer vaccine, you should get them at about 21 days apart and for the Moderna at about 28 days apart. The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) is only 1 shot.

I heard some of the COVID-19 vaccines use a genetic material called an mRNA. Does that mean it changes our genes?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines being offered do use the genetic material called mRNA, which stands for "messenger RNA" to fight the virus but it does not do anything to your genes.

Instead, the genetic material is used to teach the cells in your body to recognize the outside part of the virus that causes COVID-19. That way, if you get the virus, your body will stop it from making you sick. The COVID-19 vaccine does not change your genes which are made of DNA. mRNA is not the same as DNA, and it cannot combine with your DNA to change your genetic code.

The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine does not use mRNA. Instead this vaccine uses a virus that cannot infect humans that has a material made to look like part of the COVID-19 virus to teach your body to recognize and fight the COVID-19 virus.

How long does the COVID-19 vaccine protection against COVID-19 last?

Currently, we do not know how long the protection against COVID-19 will last.

What are the side effects?

Common Side Effects of the COVID-19 Vaccine are:

- Pain, swelling, or redness around the area where you got the shot
- Feeling tired
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Muscle or joint pains
- Nausea or vomiting

There is a small chance that the COVID-19 vaccine could give you a severe (bad) allergic reaction. A bad allergic reaction could happen a few minutes to one hour after getting a shot of the COVID-19 vaccines. Signs of a bad allergic reaction can be:

- A hard time breathing or wheezing
- A fast heart beat
- Felling weak or fainting
- Swelling of the face and/or throat
- A bad rash all over the body
- Feeling dizzy

If you feel any of these signs, call **9-1-1** or go to the closest hospital.

What if I have a history of allergies to vaccines?

The FDA suggests that a person should not get the vaccine if they have a history of severe allergies to vaccines.

I have hepatitis C and/or HIV. Is it safe for me to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. It is safe for people with hepatitis C and HIV to get the COVID-19 vaccine. There are very few medical reasons not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Please talk with your provider if you have specific questions about your condition or diseases.



Will I be safe when I get the vaccine?

Yes. You and your healthcare worker will both need to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when getting any shots, including a COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information about the COVID-19 Vaccine, please visit LAC DPH COVID-19 vaccine website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/>

For more information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), please visit this website:

<http://labeling.pfizer.com/ShowLabeling.aspx?id=14472>

For more information about the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), please visit this website:

<https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/eua-fact-sheet-recipients.pdf>

For more information about the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), please visit this website:

<https://www.janssenlabels.com/emergency-use-authorization/Janssen+COVID-19+Vaccine-Recipient-fact-sheet.pdf>