

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE



CAN YOU MIX THE COVID-19 VACCINES?

COVID-19 vaccines are not interchangeable. The safety and efficacy of a mixed product series have not been evaluated. Both doses of the series should be completed with the same product.

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES?

The Pfizer vaccine showed efficacy of 95% at preventing symptomatic Covid infection, measured starting from seven days after the second dose was administered.

The Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective at preventing symptomatic Covid-19, measured starting from 14 days after the second dose. The vaccine's efficacy appeared to be slightly lower in people 65 and older, but during a presentation to the Food and Drug Administration's advisory committee the company explained that the numbers could be influenced by the fact there were few cases in that age group in the trial.



WHAT ARE SOME COMMON SIDE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

The most commonly reported side effects, which have been shown to last several days, include: pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and fever.

IS A SMOKER AT HIGHER RISK OF CONTRACTING THE COVID-19 VIRUS?

Tobacco smokers (cigarettes, waterpipes, bidis, cigars, heated tobacco products) may be more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, as the act of smoking involves contact of fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) with the lips, which increases the possibility of transmission of viruses from hand to mouth. Smoking waterpipes, also known as shisha or hookah, often involves the sharing of mouth pieces and hoses, which could facilitate the transmission of the COVID-19 virus in communal and social settings.



IF I ALREADY HAD COVID-19, AND RECOVERED, SHOULD I GET THE VACCINE WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE?



The COVID-19 vaccination should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. You should not be required to have an antibody test before you are vaccinated.

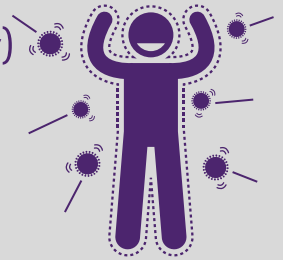
Anyone currently infected with COVID-19 should wait to get vaccinated until after their illness has resolved and after they meet the criteria to discontinue isolation.

Current evidence suggests that reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. Therefore, people with a recent infection may delay vaccination until the end of that 90-day period if desired.

DOES IMMUNITY AFTER CONTRACTING COVID-19 LAST LONGER THAN PROTECTION FROM THE VACCINE?

The protection someone gains from having an infection (called natural immunity) varies depending on the disease, and it varies from person to person. Since this virus is new, we don't know how long natural immunity might last. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection.

Regarding vaccination, we won't know how long immunity lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works.



WHY IS A VACCINE NEEDED IF WE ARE DOING OTHER THINGS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS?



Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask and staying at least 6 feet away from others, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

I HAVE RECEIVED THE TWO DOSES OF THE VACCINE, DO I STILL NEED TO WEAR A MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCE??

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.