Do You Have Questions About the **COVID-19 Vaccine?**

As COVID-19 vaccine supply increases, food service providers qualify for priority vaccination. We have collected a list of frequently asked questions about the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines from individuals working in food distribution, prep, or service (including trucking and shipping services). Don't see your question listed? Visit **www.phila.gov/covid-19** for more FAQs and updates.

How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

The COVID-19 vaccine is a medicine that helps your immune system fight the COVID-19 virus. It comes in the form of two injections.

1. The first injection primes your immune system, helping it recognize the virus.
2. The second injection strengthens your immune response. After receiving both injections, the vaccine will greatly reduce your chances of getting sick.

The interval between the two doses is 21-28 days, depending on the vaccine brand.

Are you injecting the virus?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine contains incomplete pieces of the COVID-19 virus. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain live COVID-19 virus.

Is a COVID-19 vaccine necessary?

We strongly recommend getting vaccinated. The vaccine decreases your chances of getting sick from the COVID-19 virus. It also reduces the spread of the virus, and helps keep your family, neighbors, and friends safe.

Has the vaccine been tested?

Yes. The vaccine has been tested in large clinical trials of 43,000 and 30,000 volunteers who had diverse races and ethnicities. It was approved by an Emergency Use Authorization after these trials showed that it was safe and prevented COVID-19 illness in about 95% of people who received the vaccine. Safety will continue to be monitored closely as more people get the vaccine.

Do I still need to wear a mask and social distance after getting vaccinated?

Yes. We must continue to try and stop the spread of the virus. Please continue to wear a mask and social distance until most people have the vaccine.

Can I get COVID-19 after getting vaccinated?

The COVID-19 vaccine greatly reduces your chances of getting sick, but it is not perfect. We also won't know how long immunity lasts until we have more data. If you are exposed to the virus, we still don't know if you can pass the virus to others, even if you do not get sick. For these reasons, please continue to wear a mask and social distance after receiving the vaccine.

Can children receive the vaccine?

Not yet. The Pfizer vaccine is only available to those 16 years and older and the Moderna vaccine is only available to those 18 years and older. Hopefully, the vaccine will be approved for children in the future.

What are the potential side-effects?

Potential short-term side effects include a sore arm, general muscle aches, headache, fatigue, chills, and fever. These side effects are signals that your immune system is working.

Do I need the vaccine if I had COVID-19?

Yes. We do not know how long someone is protected after getting COVID-19, and so recommend getting the vaccine. However, getting infected again within 90 days is uncommon, so if you had a recent COVID-19 infection you can delay vaccination until the end of this period or get the vaccine as soon as you have been cleared from isolation.

How much does the COVID-19 vaccine cost?

The vaccine is free to all US residents, regardless of whether you have insurance. If you do have insurance, your healthcare provider may bill the insurer for an administration fee, but you do not need to pay anything out of pocket.

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