

Do You Have Questions About the COVID-19 Vaccine?

There are a lot of questions about the new COVID-19 vaccine. To help, we have collected a list of the most frequently asked questions from people about to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Don't see your question listed? Visit www.phila.gov/covid-19 for more FAQs and updates about the vaccine.

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.

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

What is the vaccine efficacy rate?

Large clinical trials showed the both Pfizer and Moderna vaccine's efficacy rate is approximately 95% at preventing COVID-19 illness.

Can children receive the vaccine?

No. 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.

Will my medication interact with the vaccine?

No. There are no known drug interactions with the COVID-19 vaccine.

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.

