Quick Answers for Healthcare Professionals to Common Questions People May Ask About COVID-19 Vaccines

Q: Should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

YES! The vaccine will help protect you from getting COVID-19 and helps to prevent serious illness if you still get infected. By getting vaccinated, you can help protect people around you.

Q: Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

NO! None of the vaccines authorized for use in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. It does take a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it is possible you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick.

Q: If I tested positive for COVID-19 and I recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

YES! You can catch it more than once. While you may have short-term antibody protection, we don't know how long protection will last.

Q: I have an underlying medical condition. Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

YES! COIVD-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying health problems like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.

Q: Why do I need two COVID-19 shots?

Currently authorized vaccines, and most vaccines under development, require two doses of vaccine. The first dose helps the immune system recognize the virus, and the second dose strengthens the immune response. You need both to get the best protection.

Q: Is it better to get natural immunity to COVID-19 rather than immunity from a vaccine?

NO! While you may have some short-term antibody protection after recovering from COVID-19, we don't know how long this protection lasts. Vaccination is the best protection, and it is safe. People who get COVID-19 can have serious illnesses, and some have debilitating symptoms that can persist for months.

http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines

Q: Will the shot make me sick?

NO! There may be minor side effects, but they go away within a few days. Possible side effects include a sore arm, headache, fever, or body aches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. Side effects are signs that the vaccine is working to build immunity. If they don't go away in a week, or you have more serious symptoms, call your doctor.

Q: Are there long-term side effects from COVID-19 vaccine?

Because all COVID-19 vaccines are new, it will take more time and more people getting vaccinated to learn more about very rare or possible long-term side effects. The good news is, at least 8 weeks' worth of safety data were gathered in the clinical trials for all authorized vaccines, and it's unusual for vaccine side effects to appear more than 8 weeks after vaccination.

Q: How do I know if COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

All COVID-19 vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of volunteers (people) to make sure the vaccines meet safety standards and protect adults of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns identified. CDC and the FDA will keep monitoring the vaccines to look for safety issues after they are authorized and in use.

Q: Can my child get vaccinated for COVID-19?

NO! More clinical studies need to be conducted before the COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for children aged 16 and younger.

Q: How do I report problems or bad reactions after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

CDC is encouraging all who receive the vaccine to enroll in **v-safe.** This is a smartphone tool you can use to tell CDC if you have any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
If you report serious side effects, someone from CDC will call to follow up. The CDC website will offer instructions on how you can enroll in **v-safe**.

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