

What You Need to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID-19 is a new type of illness, caused by a virus. You can get COVID-19 from contact with a person who has the virus. COVID-19 is mainly a respiratory illness that can affect other parts of the body, too. COVID-19 vaccines are now available in the United States. Vaccines help the body prepare to fight disease and stop the spread of infection. Some people have concerns about getting the COVID-19 vaccination. Below are answers to common questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

1) What are the benefits of getting the vaccination for COVID-19?

- a. Decreases the risk of getting sick from COVID-19 by 95%
- b. Helps keep you, your family and your community healthy & safe
- c. Helps prevent more illness and death for everyone
- d. Can help people get back to work
- e. Can help everyday activities return to “normal”
- f. Can help end the pandemic



2) How do I know the vaccines are safe and effective?

- a. These vaccines decrease the chance of getting sick from COVID-19, by 95%
- b. That makes the vaccines highly effective at preventing illness
- c. Medical experts from around the world have worked to create these vaccines
- d. Every part of every study was reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and a group of safety experts
- e. Researchers continue to study the effect of the COVID-19 vaccination

3) How do the vaccines work?

- a. They teach your immune system how to fight the COVID-19 virus, without making you sick
- b. They cause your immune system to create “antibodies” to the virus. These antibodies act as soldiers to fight off infection from COVID-19
- c. They use your body’s natural defenses to safely create immunity to disease
- d. They are given in two shots, 3-4 weeks apart
- e. Your body will build full defense against the virus, about 1-2 weeks after the second shot



4) What are the most common side effects of the vaccine?

- a. Most side effects are mild and go away in a day or two
- b. Mild side effects are normal signs that the body is building its defenses

- c. The most common side effects are:
 - i. Tenderness at the site of the shot
 - ii. Mild fever or chills
 - iii. Feeling tired
 - iv. Headache
- d. The chance of having a severe side effect is very rare, at less than 0.5%

5) Can I get sick with COVID-19 from the vaccine?

- a. There is no “live” virus in the vaccines
- b. You cannot get sick with COVID-19, by taking the vaccination
- c. You will not test positive for COVID-19, after taking the vaccination
- d. The vaccines do not change or act on your body’s DNA in any way



6) If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need the vaccine?

- a. After you recover from COVID-19, you may have some protection from getting sick again
- b. No one knows how long that protection may last
- c. It’s still VERY important to be vaccinated, even if you have already had COVID-19

7) Are the vaccines safe if I want to have a baby some day?

- a. There is no evidence that the vaccines cause any problems with a pregnancy, now or in the future
- b. There is no evidence that the vaccines cause any problems with fertility



8) Will the COVID-19 vaccination help stop the pandemic?

- a. Wearing masks, using good hand-washing and social distancing help decrease the chance of being exposed to the virus
- b. Vaccines work with your immune system to fight the virus, if you are exposed
- c. Using masks, social distancing, good hand-washing and vaccinations are all important tools to protect yourself and others from COVID-19
- d. We need to use all these tools to end the pandemic



9) When will the vaccine be available for me?

- a. The current supply of COVID-19 vaccines is limited
- b. The state government will decide who needs the vaccines first
- c. They decide based on age and health risk
- d. People 65 or older, and “essential” workers can get the vaccination now
- e. In Florida, the general public will be able to get the vaccination by May 2021
- f. Find out more about when you can be vaccinated at

www.planyourvaccine.com