

COVID-19 Vaccine Questions

From the Field



Do the COVID-19 vaccines affect DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with DNA in any way. All authorized vaccines in the U.S. deliver instructions (genetic material) to cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, this material never touches or even talks to DNA. These instructions tell your cells how to make proteins that look like the virus—almost like sending out a ‘model’ for your immune system to follow.



Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. contain a live virus that causes COVID-19, so they cannot make you sick with the disease. These vaccines teach your cells how to make proteins that look like the virus. You might experience some symptoms (like a fever) as your immune system responds to these new proteins, but it is just training to fight a real virus if it's ever exposed to it!



Do I need the vaccine if I've already had COVID-19?

Yes. You should get a COVID-19 vaccine even if you've previously had COVID-19. Some studies show that vaccination strongly boosts protection in people who've contracted COVID-19 in the past. If you currently have COVID-19, you can get a vaccine as soon as your quarantine ends. However, if you were treated for COVID-19 with antibodies or ‘convalescent plasma,’ you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.



Do I need to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if I am young & healthy?

Yes. Being young and healthy doesn't offer immunity to COVID-19. Young people who catch the virus can still get serious long-term symptoms or die from the disease. Even if you don't develop any symptoms from COVID-19, you can still pass it along to other people who are older or at higher risk, including friends and family members. To protect these vulnerable groups, everyone needs to get vaccinated, even those who may otherwise be young and healthy.



What does FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) mean?

In a public health emergency, manufacturing and approval of vaccines can be streamlined through an EUA. An EUA does not affect vaccine safety, because it does not change how we research and develop vaccines. Instead, it speeds up how we mass produce them and deal with the paperwork. Companies pursuing an EUA can mass produce their vaccines during the testing process while they await authorization, which means that they can send out their vaccines as soon as the paperwork clears review.



How were COVID-19 vaccines made so quickly?

Scientists were able to make COVID-19 vaccines so quickly because they had decades of research to build on and a lot of resources at their disposal. Due to the EUA, manufacturers could mass produce vaccines while they awaited approval, and regulators brought the review of these vaccine applications right to the top of their to-do lists. This teamwork allowed COVID-19 vaccines to be developed, tested, and authorized in record time.



Is the vaccine safe for adolescents and children?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for their authorized age groups: 16 and up for Moderna and J&J, and 12 and up for Pfizer. Like adults, younger people may have some side effects after COVID-19 vaccination. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Your child cannot get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine.



Can pregnant women get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. If you are pregnant, you can receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Pregnant people are at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can lower that risk. There are not any known safety concerns, however the available information is limited for pregnant people. You might want to talk to your healthcare provider to help you decide whether to get vaccinated and assess your personal level of risk based on your location and level of activity.



Can women who are breastfeeding get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Lactating people can receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines have not been studied extensively on lactating people, but there are no known safety concerns. Recent reports even show that breastfeeding people who have received COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have antibodies in their breastmilk. These antibodies can help protect their babies in the future, but more data is needed to see just how much protection is gained.



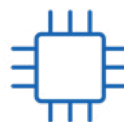
Can I get the vaccine if I want to have children someday?

Yes. If you want to get pregnant now or in the future, you can still get a COVID-19 vaccine. There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.



Does the vaccine have a magnetic effect?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including in the arm where you received the shot.



Does the vaccine have a microchip?

No, the vaccine does not contain a microchip. There might be trackers on vaccine shipment boxes to protect them from theft, but there are no trackers in the vaccines themselves. State governments record where you got the vaccine and which kind you received by using a computerized database to make sure that you get your doses on time. As proof of vaccination, you will also get a card showing that you have received a COVID-19 vaccine.