



COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

HOW DO I KNOW THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE?

These vaccines have completed Phase 3 clinical trials involving tens of thousands of participants and have been approved by the FDA. In addition, millions of Americans have received COVID-19 vaccines, with the vast majority experiencing minor, temporary side effects.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO GET THE VACCINE? CAN I STILL GET VACCINATED IF I'M UNINSURED?

The vaccine costs nothing. The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

WHY IS A VACCINE NECESSARY?

A vaccine is necessary to help you and your community shape a new normal. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines boost your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like masks and social distancing, help reduce your chance of being exposed to or spreading the virus.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF A COVID-19 VACCINE?

After getting vaccinated, you might have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. Common side effects are pain, redness, and swelling in the arm where you received the shot, as well as tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea throughout the rest of the body. These side effects could affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a couple of days.

CAN I GET COVID-19 FROM THE VACCINE?

No. Antigens are parts of germs that cause the body's immune system to go to work to build antibodies, which fight off diseases. The antigens in vaccines come from the germs themselves, but the germs are weakened or killed so they cannot cause serious illness. Even if people receive several vaccinations in one day, vaccines contain only a tiny fraction of the antigens they encounter every day in their environment. Vaccines stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies to fight off serious vaccine-preventable diseases.