

COVID-19 Vaccines & Your Safety: What You Should Know

FDA Approved



Yes, the vaccines are safe.

The U.S. vaccine safety system makes sure that all vaccines are as safe as possible. All the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same standards as any other vaccines produced through the years. Based on data collected from large clinical trials (each of which included tens of thousands of people) the FDA deemed these vaccines safe and effective for adults.



No, these vaccines cannot give you COVID-19.

None of the COVID-19 vaccines being developed in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccine teaches our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Studies show that all COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths from the disease. Even if you still get infected after you get vaccinated, experts believe the vaccine may prevent serious illness.



Will the COVID-19 vaccines protect me from the Delta variant and other coronavirus variants?

Yes, those who are fully vaccinated are protected against variants – even if they were inoculated before Delta and other variants appeared.



Side effects have shown to be minimal.

After getting the vaccine, some people feel tired or have sore muscles, mild fever, a headache or swollen lymph nodes. The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities. These are normal signs that mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. Side effects are most common after the second dose. Most of these side effects should go away in a few days. If you have any concerns, call your doctor or nurse.



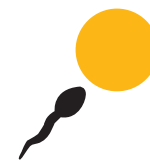
Allergic reactions to the vaccine are uncommon.

Allergic reactions, including shortness of breath and hives, were uncommon during COVID-19 vaccine trials. When you receive the vaccine, you will be monitored for at least 15 minutes for possible reactions. If you have history of allergic reactions to vaccines, talk to your healthcare provider before getting vaccinated.



Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

Yes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that pregnant women get a COVID-19 vaccine after research showed that the vaccine does not pose additional risks for mothers or babies. In addition, the CDC has stated the vaccines pose no risk for breastfeeding women or their babies. In fact, studies have shown that the COVID-19 vaccine provides protection to infants through breast milk.



Can the COVID-19 vaccine affect fertility?

According to the CDC, there is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems for males or females.



Can the COVID-19 vaccines be used in children?

Right now, people ages 12 and older can get the Pfizer vaccine, and people ages 18 and older can get the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines. Doctors are still running tests to see if the vaccines are safe and work for younger children. When these tests are done, more children will be able to get a vaccine.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, visit www.memorialhermann.org/coronavirus or www.CDC.gov.