

Let science — and your heart — be your guide.

Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

Common questions answered and other important information about the COVID-19 vaccine.

1) Do I need to wear a mask after I am vaccinated?

Yes! Keep masking and distancing!

2) Am I immune as soon as I'm vaccinated? Can I still get COVID-19?

After you are fully vaccinated, you should develop immunity in about one to two weeks. Therefore, it is possible to be infected with COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection. Importantly, vaccination protects against hospitalization and severe disease.

3) Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

Nope! There is no live virus in the COVID-19 vaccine.

4) Is one dose enough?

It depends on which vaccine is available and provided to you. Although some immunity might be provided with the first dose of a two-dose vaccine (e.g., Moderna, Pfizer), the research used to look at how the two-dose vaccines worked shows they are effective with both doses completed, not just one. One dose is sufficient for a one-dose vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson).

5) The COVID-19 vaccines were developed quickly. Are they safe?

No safety steps were skipped when developing the COVID-19 vaccines. The real-world evidence also shows that they are very safe!

6) Can the vaccine track me?

No. There is no tracking technology in the vaccine.

7) Does the vaccine change my DNA?

Nope! It teaches your cells how to recognize the virus and fight it, but it doesn't impact the part of our cells where DNA is found.

8) Can the vaccine make me sterile?

No.

9) If I'm allergic to egg can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, you can take the COVID-19 vaccines currently available.

10) Can the vaccine give me HIV?

Nope. However, having HIV means you are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19, and being vaccinated can reduce that risk.



Common side effects

The COVID-19 vaccine helps protect you from COVID-19 illness. You may experience mild side effects after receiving it. This is normal and indicates the vaccine is helping your body build immunity against COVID-19.

- Chills
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle and/or joint pain
- Redness, swelling and/or pain at the injection site
- Vomiting

Cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose are not expected symptoms of the vaccine. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended even if these symptoms arise within 48 hours of vaccination.

Learn more at [Coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://www.covid19.uflhealth.org)