

COVID-19 Vaccination: What You Need to Know

WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED?

To protect ourselves, our friends and families, and our communities, we should *all* get vaccinated to prevent severe illness and contain the spread of COVID-19—unless you have a medical condition that would make it unsafe to be vaccinated.

WHY SHOULD I GET VACCINATED?

- It may keep you from getting seriously ill.
- It protects your family, friends, and others around you, especially those at risk of severe illness.
- While masks and physical distancing reduce your risk of getting COVID-19 or spreading it, vaccination works with your immune system to fight the virus if you're exposed.

IF I HAD COVID-19, DO I NEED TO GET VACCINATED?

We still don't know how long immunity from being infected lasts, so the current recommendation is that everyone get vaccinated.

ARE THE AVAILABLE VACCINES EFFECTIVE AGAINST THE NEW CORONAVIRUS STRAINS?

Researchers are monitoring new COVID variants closely. This includes research to see whether new variants may change the protective effects of the existing vaccines. Scientists are thus far hopeful that the vaccines *will* protect against the variants.

ARE THE VACCINES SAFE?

U.S. vaccine safety is a top priority. Tens of thousands of Americans participated in clinical trials to generate data about the safety and effectiveness of COVID vaccines, and all three approved vaccines met rigorous FDA standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality. As of early March, more than 10 percent of the American adult population had been fully vaccinated, under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.

ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS?

Many people have reported mild side effects after COVID-19 vaccination. Common symptoms include pain or swelling where the shot was given, tiredness, headache, chills, and fever. Serious side effects are *extremely rare*. Many people are able to lessen common symptoms with rest and the use of over-the-counter medications like acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Most side effects go away within a few days.

IF I'VE BEEN VACCINATED, DO I NEED TO WEAR A MASK AND KEEP MY DISTANCE ON CAMPUS?

The vaccine is designed to stop the virus from making you sick. We don't know yet if it will stop you from spreading the virus. You must comply with campus protocols on mask wearing, physical distancing, hand washing, and gatherings even *after* you've been vaccinated.

IS ONE VACCINE BETTER THAN THE OTHERS? SHOULD I WAIT FOR A SPECIFIC VACCINE TO BE AVAILABLE?

All of the FDA-approved COVID vaccines are highly effective and safe. Any of these vaccines will help protect you from serious illness. Given current vaccine shortages, it's not advised that you wait for a certain vaccine if another is available to you.