



COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION: PATIENT EDUCATION

PATIENT EDUCATION & FAQ

You are being given COVID-19 vaccine. This fact sheet contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of taking the vaccine. The FDA has issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Read this Fact Sheet for information about COVID-19 vaccine. You should talk to your health care provider if you have questions. It is your choice to accept treatment with the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is recommended to be given in a two-step administration with a period of time lapsing in between. You will be given instructions on a return date for the next/second dose.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ): Please note due to the nature of this vaccine and the roll-out across the USA, we are continuously updating this document as information becomes available to us. You can always look on the State, CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) web sites for more information, as they are dedicated to this issue. The content below is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

WHAT IS COVID-19? COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus also known as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This type of coronavirus has not been seen before. This new virus has caused a worldwide pandemic with many patients developing severe respiratory illness and other serious complications. You can get COVID-19 through contact with another person who has the virus. Common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath, which may appear 2-14 days after exposure. COVID-19 illnesses have ranged from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. It poses a serious public health risk and is highly contagious.

FDA APPROVAL? Once the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approves the vaccine for use (EUA), we will receive shipments of the vaccine for administration. This supply of vaccine will be used to provide vaccinations as established by the government.

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION & BOOSTER SHOT: All vaccinations will be conducted in compliance with the CDC's guidance for immunization services during the COVID-19 pandemic for safe delivery of vaccines. We will also abide by any state specific requirements regarding COVID-19 protocols, as well as CMS guidance. We will share all vaccine related information when provided by the drug manufacturer. We will also report the vaccine administration to the state immunization registry. No other vaccinations will be offered at the time of the COVID vaccine administration. Furthermore, no patient should receive the COVID vaccine if they have received ANY OTHER VACCINE WITHIN THE PAST 14 DAYS.

COVID-19 VACCINATION WILL HELP KEEP YOU FROM GETTING COVID-19: COVID-19 vaccines are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and will be authorized or approved only if they make it substantially less likely you'll get COVID-19. Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, particularly Experts continue to conduct more studies about the effect of COVID-19 vaccination on severity of illness from COVID-19, as well as its ability to keep people from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

COVID-19 VACCINATION WILL BE A SAFER WAY TO HELP BUILD PROTECTION: COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications, and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you. Clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine for use under what is known as an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Getting COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as immunity. But experts don't know how long this protection lasts, and the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness. Both



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natural immunity and immunity produced by a vaccine are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

COVID-19 VACCINATION WILL BE AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO HELP STOP THE PANDEMIC: Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. As experts learn more about how COVID-19 vaccination may help reduce spread of the disease in communities, CDC will continue to update the recommendations to protect communities using the latest science.

FACT: COVID-19 VACCINES WILL NOT GIVE YOU COVID-19: None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. There are several different types of vaccines in development. However, the goal for each of them is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity. Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](#). It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

FACT: COVID-19 VACCINES WILL NOT CAUSE YOU TO TEST POSITIVE ON COVID-19 VIRAL TESTS Vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States won't cause you to test positive on [viral tests](#), which are used to see if you have a **current infection**. If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some [antibody tests](#). Antibody tests indicate you had a **previous infection** and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

FACT: PEOPLE WHO HAVE GOTTEN SICK WITH COVID-19 MAY STILL BENEFIT FROM GETTING VACCINATED: Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before. At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person. Some early evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long. We won't know how long immunity produced by vaccination lasts until we have a vaccine and more data on how well it works. Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

FACT: GETTING VACCINATED CAN HELP PREVENT GETTING SICK WITH COVID-19: While many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a [severe illness](#) or they may even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you are not at [increased risk of severe complications](#). If you get sick, you also may spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you while you are sick. COVID-19 vaccination helps protect you by creating an antibody response without having to experience sickness. Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](#).

FACT: RECEIVING AN MRNA VACCINE WILL NOT ALTER YOUR DNA: mRNA stands for messenger ribonucleic acid and can most easily be described as instructions for how to make a protein or even just a piece of a protein. mRNA is not able to alter or modify a person's genetic makeup (DNA). The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enter the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA are kept. This means the mRNA does not affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 vaccines that use mRNA work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop protection (immunity) to disease. Learn more about [how COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work](#).

