

8 Common Questions About the COVID-19 Vaccine

Now that the COVID-19 vaccine is available, you may have questions or concerns about it. Here are the answers to some questions that many people ask.



Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine? It will help protect you, protect others, and end the pandemic. Getting the vaccine will help you avoid catching COVID-19. (If you do catch it, your symptoms will most likely be less severe than if you hadn't gotten the vaccine.) Getting the vaccine also helps you protect the people around you—people who could have serious problems if they catch the virus.



Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe? The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. It's been given to millions of people. The risk of serious problems is very low.



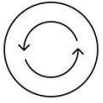
Could I get COVID-19 from the vaccine? No, you can't get COVID-19 from the vaccine. The vaccine doesn't contain the COVID-19 virus, so it can't cause the disease.



What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine? You might not have any side effects. If you do, they'll probably be a lot like the common side effects of other vaccines—a slight fever, fatigue, and soreness. (These are signs that your immune system is learning how to fight the virus.) The side effects don't last long, and they can be treated if they bother you.



How many doses of the vaccine will I need? You may need 1 or 2 doses of the vaccine. And you might need "booster" doses later to help you stay protected.



Do I need the vaccine if I've already had COVID-19? Yes. If you've had COVID-19, you may still be able to catch it again. Getting the vaccine will probably give you extra protection.



Will I still need to wear a face mask after I get the vaccine? Yes. The vaccine prevents most cases of COVID-19, but it's not 100% effective. There's still a small chance that you could catch the virus. Until the pandemic is over, keep wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing your hands well.



Why not just get COVID-19 and skip the vaccine? The risk of serious problems from the virus is much higher than the risk of serious problems from the vaccine. COVID-19 is unpredictable. Even if you're young and healthy, you could get very sick, have long-term health problems, or die. So it's much safer to get the vaccine than it is to catch COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine is one of the best ways to help stop the pandemic. So get vaccinated as soon as you can.

Current as of: March 26, 2021

Author: Healthwise Staff

Medical Review: Heather Quinn MD - Family Medicine & Lesley Ryan MD - Family Medicine

© 1995-2021 Healthwise, Incorporated. Healthwise, Healthwise for every health decision, and the Healthwise logo are trademarks of Healthwise, Incorporated. This information does not replace the advice of a doctor. Healthwise, Incorporated, disclaims any warranty or liability for your use of this information.