COVID-19 VACCINE
COMMON QUESTIONS

Is the vaccine safe? Is the vaccine safe for people with allergies or underlying medical conditions?

The COVID-19 vaccine has been developed and studied by top scientists, researchers, and health care providers. Based on their data, many of the country's top experts, including the CDC and FDA have placed their seal of approval – the vaccine *is* safe.

Is the vaccine safe for women who are breastfeeding, pregnant, or may become pregnant?

Although the COVID-19 vaccine was not tested in women who are pregnant or lactating, the vaccine is not live, so it should not be withheld for these groups. The safety and efficacy of the vaccine is thought to be similar for these populations and the general population.

How was the vaccine developed so quickly?

Rapid development is the result of decades of scientific progress and collaboration among scientists across the globe.

How long will the vaccine's protection last?

The duration of protection from the vaccine is not yet known and continues to be studied. This is one of the reasons it is important to continue to wear your masks, practice physical distancing, use good hand hygiene, and avoid large crowds even after you get the COVID-19 vaccine.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Common side effects include tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, nausea, fever, and injection site pain, swelling, or redness. Most have reported slightly more intense side effects after their second dose. Side effects generally last 1-2 days. Reasonable timing between doses is 24-42 days apart, though 19-23 days between doses is considered ideal.

MUSC Health
Medical University of South Carolina

SOUTH CAROLINA MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE

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Does the vaccine protect against variants of COVID-19?

As the virus continues to mutate, the vaccine may become less effective against other strands of COVID-19. However, researchers are already testing the vaccine against emerging variants and developing potential booster shots to improve immunity. Scientists are able to easily alter mRNA vaccines, which is one of the benefits to this type of vaccination.

Do I need to keep wearing a mask, social distancing, and avoiding large crowds even after I'm vaccinated?

Athough the approved vaccines are shown to be effective at preventing COVID-19 infections, you still need to practice public health measures such as wearing a mask, social distancing, washing hands, and avoiding large crowds. We are still learning how these vaccines will prevent spreading of the virus in the real world, so we need to maintain caution.

Should I still get vaccinated if I've already had COVID-19?

If you already had COVID-19, the CDC still recommends vaccination. If you've already had COVID-19, it's advised to wait until your symptoms have improved before receiving it.

Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No - receiving the vaccine will not cause you to test positive for COVID-19. Once your body develops its immune response, however, you may test positive on some types of antibody tests.

How much does the COVID-19 vaccine cost?

The federal government will cover the cost of the vaccine. There will be no out-of-pocket costs for the vaccine. Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers will cover the cost of vaccine administration. It is possible that health care providers may charge an office visit fee, or a fee to administer the vaccine. Administrative costs for vaccine for the uninsured will be covered by Health Resources and Services Administration.

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