

The Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

YES. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Before being authorized for use, all COVID-19 vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people to make sure they met safety standards and protected adults of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns in the trials. CDC and the FDA continue to monitor the vaccines to make sure they are safe.



Is it better to get immunity to COVID-19 from a vaccine rather than natural immunity?

YES. While you may have some short-term protection after recovering from COVID-19, we don't know how long this protection lasts. Vaccination is the best protection. People who get COVID-19 can have serious illnesses, and some have debilitating symptoms that persist for months.



Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

NO. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently used or in development in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.



If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

YES. You should get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19. While you may have some short-term protection after recovering from COVID-19, we don't know how long this protection will last.



Will the flu vaccine protect me against COVID-19?

NO. These are two different vaccines. Getting a flu vaccine will not protect you against COVID-19. But the flu vaccine can prevent you from getting influenza at the same time as COVID-19. This can keep you from having a more severe illness.



Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I am fully vaccinated?



IT DEPENDS. Studies show that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are strongly protected from getting severely ill, being hospitalized, or dying. Vaccinated people may still be able to transmit the virus to others they interact with, though limited data suggest the vaccines will at least partly reduce transmission. However, when in public, you may not know who around you has been fully vaccinated, or who is at higher risk to become very sick.

Therefore, it is still very important for those who are vaccinated, and for the rest of the population who waits for their vaccines, to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic:

- Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose in all recommended settings
- Keep physical distance from other people
- Wash your hands often after touching shared objects or touching your face

If you are fully vaccinated (i.e., 14 days have passed since your final dose), you can feel safer about your own health risks when participating in activities permitted by our state and local health departments.

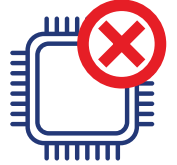
Recommendations continue to change as we learn more about the protection that vaccines provide against infections without symptoms and against different strains of the virus. Find out more about what fully vaccinated individuals can do at sfcdcp.org/lifeaftervaccine.

Will the vaccine affect my DNA?



NO. None of the vaccines used in the US can interact with or affect our DNA (genetic material).

I heard this rumor about a microchip—is there anything to that?



NO. We know many people have questions about the vaccine, and there have been examples where misinformation has been spread about the vaccine, such as this false rumor about “microchip” tracking. There is no vaccine “microchip” and this false rumor is not based in fact.

Can people still get the vaccine if they want to have children in the future?



YES. People who want to get pregnant in the future can receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them. Based on current knowledge, medical experts do not think the COVID-19 vaccines pose any short or long-term risk to those wanting to become pregnant.

What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?



The most common side effects have included fatigue, muscle pains, joint pains, fever, headaches, pain and redness at the vaccination site, occur within the first 3 days of vaccination, and resolve within 1–3 days of onset. Side effects are signs that the vaccine is working to build immunity.

