COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. Safety is a top priority. COVID-19 vaccines have been tested in large clinical trials with people of different ages, races, ethnicities, and people with different health conditions to make sure they are safe. No steps involving safety have been skipped—COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same standards as other vaccines to make sure they are safe. To ensure the safety of all vaccines in the United States (US), there is a rigorous vaccine development and approval process. Once a vaccine is available for use, there are additional systems in place to continue to ensure safety.

Will I get sick with COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No. Vaccines do not cause COVID-19 disease. However, vaccines can cause your immune system to respond. This is a sign that the vaccine—and your body's immune system—is working.

We expect people to have symptoms after vaccination with any of the currently available vaccines. People may feel some soreness in their upper arms, some aches, fever, and fatigue. These symptoms may be more noticeable than those that occur with a flu vaccine. This is completely normal and they will clear up in a few days. Some people may experience no symptoms.

Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I already had COVID-19?

Yes, you should still get the COVID-19 vaccine. We do not know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you must wait until you have completed your isolation period and are considered recovered to get the vaccine.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine affect my fertility or DNA?

There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines can affect fertility. They cannot change your DNA.

How long does it take for the COVID-19 vaccines to provide immunity (protection)?

People are considered fully vaccinated two or more weeks after they have received the second dose of a two-dose series (for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines) or two or more weeks after they have received the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I don't have health insurance?

For a full list of FAQs, visit
https://covid.ri.gov/vaccination/covid-19-vaccine-faqs.

4/14/2021