

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE & GET THE VACCINE

It has been proven **SAFE** and **EFFECTIVE** against **COVID-19**.

ARE YOU SKEPTICAL? That's understandable.

1. Who was tested in the COVID-19 clinical trials?

Pfizer's clinical trial enrolled 44,000+ participants globally with 42% of them having racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds. Moderna enrolled 30,000 trial participants from, including 6,000 Hispanic and 3,000 Black participants. The vaccine development process included participation of Black, indigenous, and people of color, both as medical professionals and clinical trial participants.

2. Are the vaccines safe?

The vaccines in trial have been tested in tens of thousands of people and have passed safety requirements. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna have reported any serious adverse effects during their initial clinical trial phases. To date, of the people who have received the complete two-dose series, no serious adverse events have been reported.

Vaccine safety monitoring systems are in place to collect side effect data. If an unexpected adverse event is seen, experts quickly study it further to assess whether it is a true safety concern. Experts then decide whether changes are needed in U.S. vaccine recommendations. This monitoring is critical to help ensure that the benefits continue to outweigh the risks for people who receive vaccines.

3. What are the side effects of the vaccines?

While not seen in all people who get vaccinated, common side effects can include injection site soreness, diarrhea, fever, muscle aches and chills. Most vaccine-related side effects last one to two days. Side effects may be more frequent after the second shot, known as the booster, and less frequent among older adults. Additionally, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have not identified any specific safety concerns among people based on age, race, ethnicity or underlying medical conditions. Most side effects are signs that your body is recognizing the vaccine and mounting a response, so you can stay healthy.

As for long-term side effects of the vaccines, they are unknown. The long-term side effects of vaccines are rare. Vaccine studies are ongoing, and they will continue to be monitored and watched for adverse side effects.

4. Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. That's because the vaccine does not use live virus and therefore cannot cause COVID-19.

5. It took four years to develop the mumps vaccine. How can the COVID-19 vaccine be safe and thoroughly tested so quickly?

There were many factors that helped the COVID-19 vaccines get developed so rapidly. Significant resources were invested to fund the basic research and clinical trials, greatly speeding up the timeline. Instead of developing new trial sites, scientists joined existing ones; thus, saving time. Additionally, the amount of infection in the communities allowed scientists to quickly compare vaccinated to unvaccinated populations and conclusively show the vaccine worked. Last, but not least, the large number of brave volunteers willing to try the “novel” vaccines during the clinical trials helped accelerate the process.

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There have been no shortcuts in the vaccine development process. The development process for COVID-19 vaccines involved several steps comparable with those used to develop other vaccines such as the flu or measles vaccine, which have successfully protected millions of Ohioans for decades. More than [175,000 doses of vaccine](#) have been administered in Ohio as of January 5, 2021. Normal side effects, like a sore arm, fatigue, headache, fever, and muscle soreness, have been reported.

6. How do I know what's true and what's not?

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. The internet, unfortunately, can be filled with dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines. The best thing you can do is educate yourself about the vaccines with trustworthy information. Learn more about [finding credible, fact-based vaccine information](#), or see a list of debunked [COVID-19 myths here](#).

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

Yes. Reinfection with COVID-19 is definitively possible, the CDC says, so everyone needs to get a coronavirus vaccination, including those who have already had the illness.

8. Is it ok to get vaccinated even if I'm still having COVID symptoms months later?

A growing number of people are becoming coronavirus "long-haulers" – people who continue to suffer fatigue, brain fog, aches, pains, headaches and more for months after the virus has left their systems. Don't let your ongoing reactions keep you from getting the shot, said vaccine scientist Dr. Peter Hotez, professor and dean at the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "We think long-haul symptoms are not due to active virus infection, but to prolonged inflammatory responses to the virus," Hotez said.

9. Should my child get vaccinated?

The Moderna vaccine is for people age 18 years and older, should receive 2 doses at least 28 days apart. The Pfizer vaccine is for people 16 years or older, should receive 2 doses at least 21 days apart.

10. What happens if I refuse to get vaccinated?

There are no legal repercussions (such as fines, sanctions or punishments) for refusing the vaccine. If you do not get vaccinated, you will not be protected against the virus that causes COVID-19. Additionally, you will be at risk of transmitting this deadly virus to co-workers and loved ones.