

COVID-19 Vaccine Questions?

It's okay to have concerns and good to ask questions.

The stress of the pandemic is immense and misinformation about the vaccine is rampant, so feeling fearful or angry is natural. As trusted healthcare providers, we're here to help answer your questions.

**Our pharmacists have
#VaccineAnswers**

Will the vaccine give me COVID?

ANSWER: The vaccine trains your immune system to recognize and defend your body from COVID, but it will not actually cause a COVID infection. **The vaccine does not contain live COVID virus.**

Will the vaccine protect me against COVID variants?

ANSWER: The vaccine is effective against COVID variants. A June 2021 study from the U.K. found that the Pfizer vaccine is 96% effective against hospitalization from the delta variant after two doses.

If I've already had COVID do I really need the vaccine?

ANSWER: Getting infected with COVID does provide some natural immunity after your infection has run its course. However, this natural immunity decreases over time. Early studies indicate that the immunity provided by the COVID vaccine is longer-lasting than the immunity acquired through infection.

Is it true that vaccinated people are the reason for the variant COVID strains?

ANSWER: Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants persist. Numerous variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 are being tracked in the United States and globally during this pandemic. The best way to slow the emergence of new variants is to reduce the spread of infection by taking measures to protect yourself including getting a COVID-19 vaccine when available.

Will the vaccine alter my DNA?

ANSWER: The mRNA in the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines never enters the nucleus of the cell where your DNA is located. The mRNA causes your cells to make protein to stimulate the immune system, and then the mRNA quickly breaks down – without interacting with your DNA at all.

Why should I be vaccinated if people who are vaccinated are still getting COVID?

ANSWER: The vaccine works. Many people are still getting infected in Missouri because around half of Missourians still have not received the COVID vaccine. In July 2021, around 97% of people hospitalized in the United States due to COVID symptoms were unvaccinated.

While unlikely, people who have been vaccinated can still get COVID. However, people who are vaccinated but become infected with COVID are much less likely to experience severe symptoms or require hospitalization.

I still want to have kids. Can the vaccine affect fertility?

ANSWER: The COVID vaccine will not affect fertility. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has stated that the COVID vaccine is safe for people who are thinking about becoming pregnant, wanting to become pregnant, are pregnant, or who are breastfeeding.

Hasn't the vaccine caused severe side effects and death in a large number of people who have received it?

ANSWER: All vaccines and medicines do carry a small risk of adverse reactions. However, millions of people in the United States have safely received the COVID vaccine under some of the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.

The CDC and the FDA are currently monitoring reports that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may have an increased risk of developing thrombocytopenia syndrome or Guillain-Barre Syndrome. It's important to understand that these reported side effects are still incredibly rare.

It's also important to note that reports of adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) following vaccination, including deaths, do not necessarily mean that a vaccine caused a health problem. It simply means that a patient experienced an adverse health event within a certain timeframe after receiving a vaccine. Correlation does not always equal causation.

What is the risk of Myocarditis/Pericarditis?

ANSWER: These reports are rare, given the hundreds of millions of vaccine doses administered. They have been reported after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination. Confirmed cases have occurred mostly in male adolescents and young adults aged 16 years or older, are seen more often after getting the second dose than after the first dose of one of the two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, and typically occur within several days after COVID-19 vaccination. CDC continues to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for everyone 12 years of age and older, given the risk of COVID-19 illness and related, possibly severe complications, such as long-term health problems, hospitalization, and even death.

What is the risk of blood clots?

ANSWER: Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) is a rare, clinically serious and potentially life-threatening condition. Current evidence suggests a plausible causal association with the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. Most cases are in women, with most aged 18-49 years old. TTS does not appear to be associated with mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

How are the three vaccines different from each other?

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine

Type: mRNA vaccine*

Effectiveness: 91% effective at preventing the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) virus with symptoms in people age 16 and older

Greater than 89% effective in preventing people with health conditions, such as diabetes or obesity, from developing the COVID-19 virus with symptoms

100% effective at preventing the COVID-19 virus in children ages 12 through 15

Appears to protect against severe COVID-19

Moderna vaccine

Type: mRNA vaccine*

Effectiveness: 94% effective at preventing the COVID-19 virus with symptoms

Greater than 90% effective in preventing people with health conditions, such as diabetes or obesity, from developing the COVID-19 virus with symptoms

Appears to protect against severe COVID-19

Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Type: Vector vaccine*

Effectiveness: 66% effective at preventing the COVID-19 virus with symptoms

85% effective at preventing the COVID-19 virus with severe illness

SOURCE FOR VACCINE COMPARISON:
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/vaccine/comparing-vaccines>

What is an mRNA vaccine vs. a Vector vaccine?

*For answers to more questions, information about mRNA vaccine, Vector vaccine, dosing information and side effects, scan the QR code below for #VaccineAnswers.

Still have questions?

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Call us: (573) 334-1300

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