



What Doctors Want You to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccines



Adapted from AMA Guidance

What about safety?

Operation Warp Speed involved selecting the most promising vaccine candidates and providing government support. It did NOT eliminate steps from traditional vaccine development timelines. The FDA carefully reviewed all safety data from the large clinical trials and authorized emergency use only because the expected benefits outweighed the risks substantially.

Will the vaccines make me sick?

The vaccines will not give you COVID-19. Most people have not had serious problems after being vaccinated. The side effects like fever, chills, tiredness, and headache are signs the vaccine is working and doing what it is supposed to do boosting your immune system.

What about the mRNA vaccines?

The Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines are being held to the same safety and efficacy standards as all other types of vaccines. The mRNA vaccines cannot give you COVID because they do NOT use the live virus. These mRNA vaccines do NOT affect our DNA in any way because the mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell where our DNA is kept.

What about the viral vector vaccines?

The Janssen/Johnson & Johnson and Astra Zeneca are being held to the same safety and efficacy standards of other vaccines. Viral vectors cannot cause infection with COVID-19 or with The virus used as the vaccine vector. The genetic material delivered does NOT integrate into a person's DNA so it cannot interact.

What if I had COVID?

You should still get vaccinated. Experts do not know how long you are protected from getting sick again. If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days to be vaccinated. People with COVID-19 should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness.

Which COVID-19 vaccine should I receive?

All three FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be highly effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death from COVID. It is very difficult to compare them because they were developed at different times, in different countries, and under different conditions. The medical consensus recommendation is that when it is your turn to get vaccinated, you should take the first vaccine available to you.

What about once I've been vaccinated?

You are considered fully vaccinated >2 weeks after receiving both doses of the Pfizer or Moderna, or the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson. At this point, according to the CDC, you can:

- Resume normal activities that you did prior to the pandemic.
- Resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws; including local business and workplace guidance.



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