

COVID-19 VACCINE

COMMON QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS



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

It may hurt a little where you got the shot. You may also be tired, get a fever, and have head or body aches. These side effects are good! They are signs that the vaccine is working and your body is building immunity.

Very rarely, a person has an allergic reaction to the vaccine right after getting it. To keep these people safe, healthcare providers have patients wait 15-30 minutes before leaving the vaccination area.

Can the vaccine give me or my family COVID-19?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines being used in the United States have live viruses, so they can't give you the disease. And because you won't have the live virus, you can't give it to your family.

How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

Right now, there are two approved vaccines, from the Pfizer and Moderna companies. Both work the same way. The vaccines contain a small piece of the virus, usually a spike from its surface, or genetic instructions to make the spike. Getting the vaccine trains your body's immune system to recognize the spike and kill any viruses with it.

How can a safe vaccine be ready so quickly?

For two main reasons. First, because of the pandemic, scientists all over the world cooperated on a single goal: find a vaccine as quickly as possible. Second, the U.S. government paid drug companies a lot of money—over \$12 billion—so there was no financial risk for them to develop the vaccine. That meant that scientists could start each of the 4 stages of testing as soon as there was safety data from the last one. Creating new drugs is very expensive, around \$1.3 billion per drug, so companies usually wait after each stage to figure out if the drug will pay for itself.

I don't trust the government to give me health information.

Talk with your healthcare provider about your concerns and ask them for alternative sources of health information. Medical associations, nonprofit organizations, community groups, and universities all provide good online COVID-19 vaccine resources.

If I get the vaccine, will I be part of an experiment without my consent?

By law, no one can include you in an experiment without

explaining the study and getting your written permission. The laws were passed in the 1970s after some shameful history. In the 1930s, the Tuskegee Project signed up 400 Black men with syphilis, telling them they would get health services. They didn't tell them they were doing research to see what happened when the disease was left untreated. In the 1950s, in Puerto Rico, poor, young women were given birth control, but not told about the possible side effects. The laws that now protect human subjects require researchers to tell people what they are doing and get their informed consent. They also require that special committees review every study.

Does the vaccine have something in it to track or control people?

The COVID-19 vaccine does not stay in your body, so there is nothing in it that can track or control you. Getting the vaccine trains your body's immune system to recognize a spike on the virus and kill any viruses with it. In that training process, all the original material from the vaccine is destroyed. To make sure residents stay healthy, Massachusetts does keep track of all immunizations in a confidential database. By law, only healthcare providers and public health officials can see it.

I don't need a vaccine. My immunity is already strong, or I use natural remedies.

It's great that you are already healthy. But COVID-19 is a new virus that your body hasn't encountered before. Getting the vaccine will train your body's immune system to recognize and kill it if you are exposed.

I don't need a vaccine because for most young/healthy people, COVID-19 isn't very serious.

Some young and healthy people have very serious cases of COVID-19 and can even die from it. Others don't even realize they have it. These people are actually the ones who spread COVID-19 the most. Scientists think about 60% of cases are caught from someone without symptoms. So even if you are young and/or healthy, getting the vaccine will stop the virus from spreading to others, including older family members and those with health conditions.

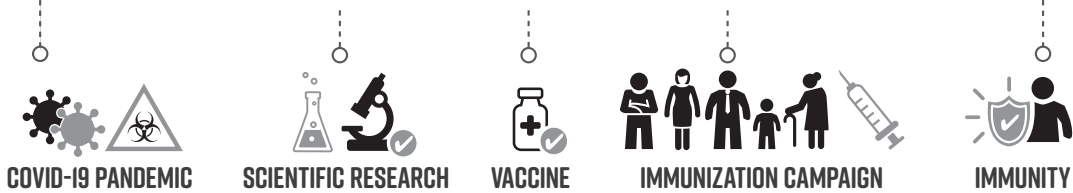
Does the vaccine stay in my body?

No. The vaccine trains your body to recognize the virus and kill it. In that training process, all the original material from the vaccine is destroyed.

How long will immunity last?

Scientists don't know yet. It may be a couple years.

VACCINATION



If this is the case, people may need to be vaccinated every year, as is done with influenza.

Has anyone died from the COVID-19 vaccine?

No one has died from the COVID-19 vaccine in the United States. In Norway, some patients in their 80s and with existing medical conditions or who were terminally ill died after getting the vaccine. Scientists don't know why yet. If it was related to the vaccine, it may have been because they were already very weak and their conditions were worsened by common side effects such as fever, nausea, or diarrhea. If you fall into this high-risk category, talk with your healthcare provider about what to do.

I always get sick from the flu shot, so vaccines are not good for me.

Vaccine side effects such as being tired, getting a fever, and having head or body aches are signs the vaccine is working and your body is building immunity. Isn't it better to feel a little sick from the flu shot than to be one of the 12,000-61,000 people who die from influenza every year? And isn't it better to feel a little sick from the COVID-19 vaccine than to be one of the almost half million Americans who have already died from the disease?

I already had COVID-19. Do I still need the vaccine?

Yes. You can get infected with COVID-19 a second time. Scientists still don't know how long natural immunity lasts. So it is safest for you and your loved ones if you get vaccinated. Please note that if you were treated with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting the vaccine.

Who pays for the COVID-19 vaccine? What if I am uninsured?

All residents of the United States are entitled to free COVID-19 vaccination. As part of its payments to drug companies, the U.S. government bought millions of doses of the vaccine and will buy many more. Whether you have private insurance, public insurance, or no insurance, you and your family can get vaccinated against COVID-19 free of charge.

My risk from the vaccine is greater than my risk of getting very sick or dying from COVID.

The facts don't agree. Millions of people in the U.S. have already been vaccinated. A very, very, very small

number have had allergic reactions. None have died from them. Compare that to the almost half million Americans who've already died from COVID-19.

Can getting the COVID-19 vaccine affect my immigration status in any way?

It's important that everyone get vaccinated, including immigrants, regardless of their status. The federal government will not impose any immigration consequences for getting the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes being considered a public charge, even if you get it through a program like Medicaid. Federal and state laws require that healthcare providers keep patients' personal information confidential.

The vaccine is just another way for pharmaceutical companies to make money.

The U.S. government paid the drug companies over \$12 billion so they could develop and make the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. During the pandemic, the vaccine will be free so that as many people as possible get immunized.

I'm pregnant or breastfeeding. Should I still get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Pregnant women are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 if they get the disease. But scientists don't yet have long-term data on pregnancy or breastfeeding and the vaccine. Doctors and nurses recommend that pregnant and breastfeeding women get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have a health condition or are an essential worker. Others may want to talk with their healthcare providers about what's best for them and their babies.

Has the vaccine been tested on people like me?

Yes. The Moderna vaccine was tested on 30,000 people, slightly more men than women, 10.2% of whom were Black and 20.5% Latinx. The Pfizer vaccine was tested on 37,000 people, evenly split between men and women, 9% of whom were Black and 27% Latinx. Almost half of the people in the Pfizer trial had a condition such as obesity, diabetes, or heart disease.

Does the vaccine have any non-halal or non-kosher ingredients?

The vaccines do not include any pork, blood, or egg products.

VACUNA COVID-19

PREGUNTAS E INQUIETUDES FRECUENTES



¿Cuáles son los efectos secundarios de la vacuna COVID-19?

Puede que le duela un poco en el área donde recibió el pinchazo. También podría experimentar cansancio, fiebre, dolores de cabeza o de cuerpo.

¡Estos efectos secundarios son buenos!

Son señales de que la vacuna está funcionando y su cuerpo está desarrollando inmunidad. En muy raras ocasiones, alguien tiene una reacción alérgica a la vacuna inmediatamente después de recibirla. Para proteger a estas personas, los profesionales de la salud le piden a los pacientes que esperen entre 15 y 30 minutos antes de abandonar el área de vacunación.

¿Es posible que la vacuna nos dé COVID-19 a mí o a mi familia?

No. Ninguna de las vacunas COVID-19 que se utilizan en los Estados Unidos tiene un virus vivo, por lo que no pueden contagiarle la enfermedad a usted ni transmitírsela a su familia.

¿Cómo funciona la vacuna COVID-19?

Por el momento, hay dos vacunas aprobadas en Estados Unidos, una de la empresa Pfizer, otra de Moderna. Ambas funcionan de la misma manera. Las vacunas contienen una pequeña parte del virus, generalmente un pico de su superficie, o instrucciones genéticas para crearlo. Al recibir la vacuna, su sistema inmunológico se entrena en el reconocimiento de estos picos y la aniquilación de cualquier virus asociado con ellos.

¿Cómo puede una vacuna segura estar lista en tan poco tiempo?

Por dos razones principales. Primero, debido a la pandemia, científicos de todas partes del mundo cooperaron con un solo objetivo: encontrar una vacuna lo antes posible. En segundo lugar, el gobierno de los EE. UU. pagó mucho dinero a las compañías farmacéuticas (más de \$ 12 mil millones), cubriendo el riesgo financiero de desarrollar la vacuna. Gracias a ello, los científicos pudieron comenzar cada una de las 4 etapas de pruebas

en el desarrollo de la vacuna apenas recibían información sobre la seguridad y eficacia de ésta en la etapa previa. Crear nuevos medicamentos es muy costoso, alrededor de \$ 1.3 mil millones por medicamento, por lo que las empresas generalmente esperan después de cada etapa para determinar si el medicamento se amortizará.

No necesito una vacuna. Mi inmunidad ya es fuerte o utilizo remedios naturales.

¡Fantástico que esté saludable! Pero COVID-19 es un virus nuevo que su cuerpo no ha encontrado antes. Recibir la vacuna capacitará a su sistema inmunológico para reconocer y exterminar el virus si se expone a él.

No necesito una vacuna porque para la mayoría de las personas jóvenes o sanas, COVID-19 no es muy grave.

Algunas personas jóvenes y sanas tienen casos muy graves de COVID-19 e incluso pueden morir a causa de él. Otros ni siquiera se enteran de que lo tienen. Estas personas son en realidad las que más lo transmiten. Los científicos piensan que alrededor del 60% de los casos se contagian de alguien que no muestra síntomas. Por lo tanto, incluso si es joven y / o está sano, al vacunarse evitará que el virus se propague a otras personas, incluidos familiares mayores y personas con problemas de salud.

¿La vacuna se queda en mi cuerpo?

No. La vacuna entrena a su cuerpo a reconocer el virus y matarlo. En ese proceso se destruye todo el material original de la vacuna.

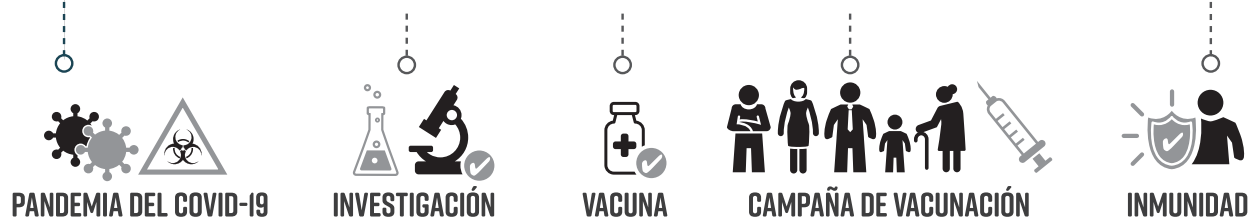
¿Cuánto durará la inmunidad?

Los científicos aún no lo saben. Puede durar un par de años. De ser así, es posible que las personas deban vacunarse todos los años, como se hace con la influenza.

¿Alguien ha muerto por la vacuna COVID-19?

Nadie ha muerto por la vacuna COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos. En Noruega, algunos pacientes octogenarios con condiciones médicas preexistentes o enfermedades terminales murieron después

VACUNACIÓN



de recibir la vacuna. Los científicos aún no saben por qué. De estar relacionado con la vacuna, puede haber sido porque ya estaban muy débiles y sus condiciones empeoraron por los efectos secundarios comunes como fiebre, náuseas o diarrea. Si usted está en esta categoría de alto riesgo, hable con su proveedor de salud sobre cómo proceder.

Siempre me enfermo por la vacuna contra la gripe, estas vacunas no son buenas para mí.

Los efectos secundarios de la vacuna, como cansancio, fiebre y dolor de cabeza o de cuerpo, son señales de que la vacuna está funcionando y de que su cuerpo está desarrollando inmunidad. ¿No es preferible sentirse un poco enfermo por la vacuna contra la gripe que ser una de las 12.000 a 61.000 personas que mueren de influenza cada año? ¿Y no es mejor sentirse un poco enfermo por la vacuna COVID-19 que ser uno de los casi medio millón de estadounidenses que ya han muerto a causa de la enfermedad?

Ya tuve COVID-19. ¿Todavía necesito la vacuna?

Sí. Puede infectarse con COVID-19 por segunda vez. Los científicos aún no saben cuánto dura la inmunidad natural. Por lo tanto, es más seguro para usted y sus seres queridos si se vacuna. Tenga en cuenta que si fue tratado con anticuerpos monoclonales o plasma de convalecencia, debe esperar 90 días antes de recibir la vacuna.

¿Quién paga por la vacuna? ¿Qué sucede si no tengo seguro?

Todos los residentes de los Estados Unidos tienen derecho a recibir la vacuna COVID-19 gratis. Como parte de sus pagos a las empresas farmacéuticas, el gobierno compró millones de dosis de la vacuna y comprará muchas más. Así y tengan seguro privado, seguro pú-

blico o ningún seguro, usted y su familia pueden vacunarse contra COVID-19 sin cargos.

El riesgo de vacunarme es mayor que el de enfermarme gravemente o morir a causa deL COVID.

Los hechos dicen otra cosa. Millones de personas en Estados Unidos ya han sido vacunadas. Un número pequeñísimo ha tenido reacciones alérgicas. Compare ese número con el casi medio millón de estadounidenses que ya han muerto a causa del COVID-19.

¿Recibir la vacuna COVID-19 puede afectar mi estado migratorio de alguna manera?

Es importante que todos se vacunen, incluidos los inmigrantes, independientemente de su situación. El gobierno federal no impondrá consecuencias migratorias por recibir la vacuna COVID-19, incluyendo la consideración de ser una carga pública por recibir la vacuna a través de un programa como Medicaid. Las leyes federales y estatales requieren que los proveedores de atención médica mantengan la confidencialidad de la información personal de los pacientes.

Estoy embarazada o amamantando. ¿Debería recibir la vacuna de todos modos?

Las mujeres embarazadas tienen un mayor riesgo de presentar cuadros severos de COVID-19 si contraen la enfermedad. Pero los científicos aún no tienen datos a largo plazo sobre el embarazo o la lactancia y la vacuna. Los médicos y enfermeras recomiendan que las mujeres embarazadas y en período de lactancia reciban la vacuna COVID-19 si tienen una condición médica o son trabajadores esenciales. Las demás tal vez quieran consultar con sus proveedores de salud sobre lo que es mejor para ellas y sus bebés.