

COVID-19 vaccine FACTS



IT'S SAFE

The FDA and a New York State independent advisory task force authorized the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines after careful review and testing. More than 116,000 people participated in the clinical trials. More than one in three participants were people of color.



IT WORKS

All three authorized vaccines were 100% effective at preventing hospitalizations and death from COVID-19. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were nearly 95% effective at preventing COVID-19. In the US, the J & J vaccine was 72% effective against COVID infection and 86% effective against severe disease.



IT'S FREE

The COVID-19 vaccines are provided at no cost to you. Some providers may charge a fee for giving the shot, which will be covered by your insurance. If you don't have insurance, there is still no cost to you.



Will not give you COVID-19

The vaccines do not contain the new coronavirus, and they cannot make you sick from COVID-19.



Immigration status is not collected

If you get vaccinated, you will never have to give any information to the government that could be used to identify your immigration status.



Pregnancy increases COVID risk

Pregnant women are at a higher risk of severe COVID. Scientists have found that the vaccines are safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women and their babies. Doctors say the vaccines do not affect fertility.



Endorsed by physicians

The American Medical Association, the National Medical Association and the Black Physicians Network of Greater Rochester reviewed the vaccines' safety and support their use.



Free of human and animal products

The vaccines do not contain eggs, pork, preservatives or any other animal or human ingredients.



Safe for Black and Latino folks

More than 30% of participants in vaccine studies were people of color.

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No major side effects

As with all vaccinations, some people may have muscle aches, fever, tiredness and other mild symptoms for a day or two. These are signs that the immune system is building up protection to the disease. Rarely, people can have an allergic reaction to any vaccine immediately after the shot. This is why all vaccinations are given by trained health care professionals and why you must wait at least 15 minutes after the shot before leaving.

No coronavirus in the vaccine



The vaccines temporarily prompt the body to make a harmless protein that looks like a COVID-19 protein. When our body encounters this protein, it creates the antibody defenses we need to fight COVID-19 if—and when—the real germ attacks.



Scientists had a head start

Although the COVID-19 vaccines were developed quickly, they were built upon years of work developing vaccines for similar viruses.



Thorough & successful testing

COVID-19 vaccines met the same safety standards as all other vaccines. Because COVID-19 was so widespread, researchers could quickly see that the vaccines provided protection.



Some take two doses

With the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, you need a second dose to be fully immune to COVID-19. You will get your second shot a few weeks after your first. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires one dose.



They cannot change DNA

The vaccines train the body to make a piece of the coronavirus. Pfizer and Moderna use mRNA as instructions, while Johnson & Johnson uses DNA in a harmless virus that can't cause illness or replicate itself.



Mask, distance, wash hands

Until the spread of the virus has stopped, continue to follow these safety precautions.



No positive COVID-19 test

The vaccine will not cause you to test positive on tests that check for a current infection.



Had COVID? Get vaccinated

Reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, and we don't know how long a person is protected after recovering from COVID-19.



More information online

Visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> and <https://ny.gov/vaccine> and <https://www.flvaccinehub.org>.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State Department of State, University of Massachusetts Medical School and Wake County North Carolina.

Walk in or call 2-1-1 for help getting an appointment.

You Deserve Answers

Get them at [GetYourAnswers.org](https://www.getyouranswers.org)