

# COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and Answers

## 1. Why should I get vaccinated?

- To protect yourself and your family, Keep residents' safe, help stop the spread in the community, and set the example for others, including residents, families, co-workers, and the community at large.

## 2. Will the vaccine give me Covid-19?

- Both Pfizer (BNT 162b2) and Moderna (mRNA-1273) are mRNA vaccines and DO NOT contain the COVID-19 virus
- mRNA technology is new in vaccine production but is already being used in cancer treatment. It has been studied for more than 10 years
- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece that looks like the "spike" protein. The spike protein is found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus
- Our bodies recognize that this protein should not be there, so they build antibodies that will remember how to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 if we are infected in the future

## 3. How effective are the COVID-19 vaccines?

- Pfizer- 95% and Moderna-94.1% effective

## 4. What should I expect when I get the vaccine?

- You can expect to have short-term discomfort: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and pain at injection site after vaccination
- These reactions will last 24-48hrs and are typically more pronounced after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
- Side effects mean your body is doing its job and making antibodies (IT'S A GOOD THING)
- These side effects are normal, common and expected
- YOU MUST GET THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DOSE! Because the vaccine will not protect you if you only get 1 dose.
- It is important to get the SAME VACCINE as the 1<sup>st</sup> dose

## 5. Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

- Safety is the most important priority in vaccine approval
- Most side effects occur within 6wks of vaccination. To be more cautious, the FDA(Food and Drug Administration) requires 8wks of safety monitoring of the COVID-19 vaccines
- Monitoring for safety will continue as the vaccine is distributed to the public
- To assess safety FDA typically advises that a minimum of 3,000 participants are included in the trial. The current COVID-19 vaccine trials include 30,000- 50,000 participants

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## 6. Why should we trust the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The FDA is using the same strict standards that it has for decades
- No steps are “skipped”
- Two independent advisory committees are reviewing the results. Member experts of these committees have no conflict of interest and are not associated with any vaccine manufactures
  - The Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) that advises the FDA
  - The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that advises the CDC

## 7. What does Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) mean for me?

- EUA for a vaccine is based on the need to use a vaccine quickly to save lives during a public health emergency
- It is a shorter process but **NO STEPS ARE SKIPPED in the safety evaluation process**
- The FDA will assess if the vaccine known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risk
- An EUA **DOES NOT** imply that the authorization was done too quickly or that the vaccine is not safe

## 8. How was the vaccine developed so quickly?

- Major reasons we were able to get these developed more quickly than usual include:
  - Global effort with the world’s leading scientist focused on a single task
  - Unlimited resources(money, knowledge, manpower, technology)
  - A large pool of diverse adult volunteer trial participants

## 9. When and how long will I be protected by the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Most of the vaccines are 2 doses, 3-4 weeks apart
- Protection occurs 1-2 weeks after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose
- We will most likely not know how long the vaccine will be protective once we receive it. We will know more as more time passes in the current research
- May need to have vaccine shots for COVID-19 on a regular basis (like the flu shot)

## 10. Will I still need to wear a mask?

- Yes, Similar to other vaccines, a large number of people in the community will need to get vaccinated before transmission drops enough to stop the use of mask

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## 11. What if I already had COVID-19?

- It is safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you have had COVID-19
- Even if you have had COVID-19, it is important to get vaccinated. It could give you longer or better protection against the disease
- Even if you have positive antibodies, you should get the COVID-19 vaccine

## 13. Will taking the vaccine make you test positive on a PCR or antigen test for Covid-19?

- No, it will not make you test positive

## 14. Is it safe to take the vaccine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding?

- This has not been studied in pregnant women at this time and not recommended. Please refer to your physician for guidance.

## 15. Where should I look to get ACCURATE information?

- It is important to get information from RELIABLE SOURCES (CDC, AMDA, Medical directors, providers) SOCIAL MEDIA IS FULL OF MISINFORMATION AND OPINIONS ON THAT MISINFORMATION!
- Here are some link to information:
  - CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/answering-questions.html>
  - CDC: About COVID-19 vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines.gtml>
  - CDC: Provider Resources for COVID-19 Vaccine Conversations with Patients and Answering Patients' Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/covid-conversations/>

**VACCINES ARE THE ONLY WAY TO CONTROL THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC! EVERYONE HAS TO DO THEIR PART AND GET VACCINATED TO GET BACK TO A NORMAL LIFE 😊**