

COVID-19 Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

The risk of COVID-19 and its complications far outweighs the risk of getting the vaccine. The vaccines were tested in trials and no serious safety concerns were reported. The FDA also conducted a thorough evaluation to ensure the vaccines met its standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality.

Will the vaccine prevent COVID-19?

Trials showed the Moderna vaccine was 94% effective in preventing COVID-19. There were no serious safety concerns reported with either in the trials.

Can I still get COVID-19 after receiving the first dose of vaccine?

Yes. It takes until at least two weeks after getting the second vaccine dose to reach full immunity.

How long does immunity last after receiving the vaccine?

More research is needed to determine how long the COVID-19 vaccine will provide immunity.

Who is getting vaccinated first?

Frontline health care workers and people in high-risk categories are among the first to get vaccinated.

How old do you have to be to get the vaccine?

The FDA has authorized the Moderna vaccine for people age 18 and older.

Should I get vaccinated if I have allergies?

Do not get your second vaccine dose if you were treated for an allergic reaction within four hours after receiving your first dose. You also should not get vaccinated if you have had a severe allergic reaction to any component of either vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine components are messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA), lipids (SM-102, polyethylene glycol [PEG] 2000 dimyristoyl glycerol [DMG], cholesterol, and 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine [DSPC]), tromethamine, tromethamine hydrochloride, acetic acid, sodium acetate, and sucrose.

Should I get the vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

If you are pregnant, considering becoming pregnant or breastfeeding, consult with your provider on the risks and benefits before deciding whether to get the vaccine. At this time, there is no safety data available on the potential risks for pregnant/breastfeeding individuals or fetuses.

I have heard the vaccine causes infertility – is that true?

No. The vaccine does not cause infertility.

Should I get vaccinated if I already had COVID-19?

It is recommended that people who have had COVID-19 get the vaccine. Your provider may ask you to wait at least 2 weeks. Current evidence suggests reinfection is uncommon during that time period.

Is the vaccine safe for children?

A COVID-19 vaccine may not be available for children until more studies are completed.

What can I expect when I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is like getting any other vaccine. The Moderna vaccine requires two shots given 21-28 days apart. It is important to get both doses to get full protection. And you must get two doses.

You could experience some discomfort and soreness from the injection as well as nonserious effects. Our Walgreens Pharmacy partners will explain any side effects prior to getting the vaccine.

Are there side effects from getting the vaccine?

The most common reported side effects in trials included pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. Side effects such as these often indicate a person's immune system is responding to the vaccine. Side effects may increase after the second dose.

If you experience something more serious than a side effect after getting vaccinated, contact your health care provider to get care right away.

What if I experience an allergic reaction after getting the vaccine?

Everyone who receives a vaccine will be monitored by our providers for 15 minutes after vaccination. We are prepared to respond quickly and appropriately should anyone experience an allergic reaction.

It is recommended you not get your second vaccine dose if you were treated for an allergic reaction within four hours after receiving your first dose. If you are not sure if you had an allergic reaction, talk to your doctor about your symptoms.

Will I still need to wear a mask and socially distance after getting vaccinated?

Yes. Wearing masks, social distancing and washing your hands will continue to be important even after you are vaccinated. It will take time to immunize enough of the population to stop the virus from spreading, so we will need to continue these safe practices for some time.

If I do not get the vaccine, will I have another chance?

This is St. Monica's opportunity through the Department of Health Pharmacy Partnership program, you most likely will need to wait until public health offers the vaccine to the general public.

Once the vaccine is offered, if I refuse, will I be able to qualify for COVID pay?

Once the vaccine is offered, if you refuse, St. Monica's will be going back to the standard sick time policy, once your sick time is used up, you will need to use your vacation time (full-time employees).

Once the pandemic is over, will I need to wear a mask?

Since the COVID-19 is not a seasonal illness, once the pandemic subsides and the general public is vaccinated, those who have not been vaccinated will need to continue to wear a mask.