8 Common Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines

Here are the answers to some questions and concerns that many people ask.

Why should I stay up to date on my COVID-19 vaccines? It will help protect you and protect others. Staying up to date will help you avoid catching COVID-19. (If you do catch it, your symptoms will most likely be less severe than if you hadn't gotten the vaccine.) Staying up to date also helps you protect the people around you—people who could have serious problems if they catch the virus.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe? COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. They have been given to millions of people. The risk of serious problems is very low.

Could I get COVID-19 from a vaccine? No, you can't get COVID-19 from a vaccine. The vaccines don't contain the COVID-19 virus, so they can't cause the disease.

What are the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines? You might not have any side effects. If you do, they'll probably be a lot like the common side effects of other vaccines—a fever, fatigue, and soreness. (These are signs that your immune system is learning how to fight the virus.) The side effects don't last long, and they can be treated if they bother you.

How many doses of a vaccine will I need? The number of doses you need depends on which vaccine you get. It also depends on your age and health. "Booster" doses help you stay protected. You are considered to be up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines when you've received all the recommended doses and booster doses.
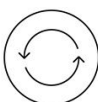
Do I need to stay up to date on my COVID-19 vaccines if I've already had COVID-19? Yes. If you've had COVID-19, you can catch it again. Staying up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations will give you extra protection.

Will I still need to wear a mask after I get vaccinated? Maybe. Even if you're up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines, you may need to wear a mask. Be sure to follow all instructions from your local health authorities and the CDC.
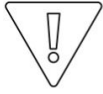
Why not just get COVID-19 and skip getting vaccinated? The risk of serious problems from the virus is much higher than the risk of serious problems from getting vaccinated. COVID-19 is unpredictable. Even if you're young and healthy, you could get very sick, have long-term health problems, or die. So it's much safer to get vaccinated than it is to catch COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccines are one of the best ways to protect yourself and others from the virus. So stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines.