COVID-19 Vaccine Questions

From the Field

Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I can still catch COVID-19 anyway?

COVID-19 vaccines are not meant to prevent all people from catching the virus. They are meant to keep us from getting very sick—or even dying—from COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine helps keep us from getting very sick. Getting the vaccine is also a safer way to build this defense than getting sick with COVID-19.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Why should I get a vaccine when there are treatments for COVID-19?

The COVID-19 vaccines are the best line of defense against the virus. Treatments are helpful, but they don't always keep people from getting very sick or dying from COVID-19. They do not replace vaccines. A bad case of COVID-19 can still cause major health problems. The vaccines help prevent these bad cases of COVID-19.

Source: John Hopkins Medicine

Can getting a COVID-19 vaccine when I'm pregnant help protect my baby?

Yes, the vaccines can defend a pregnant mother and help protect her baby. A recent CDC study shows how. The babies of women who got mRNA vaccines while pregnant were 60% less likely to get very sick from COVID-19. 84% of babies who got very sick from COVID-19 were born to mothers who had not taken a COVID-19 vaccine.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Why are there so many COVID-19 cases among people who got a vaccine?

As the total number of people who've taken a vaccine grows, the pool of people who choose not to get a vaccine shrinks. More cases then will be among vaccinated people because they make up such a large portion of the U.S. The risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 is much lower for those who get a vaccine than for those who don't.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Why do I need to wear a mask sometimes if I am up to date on my vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccines do a good job at keeping us safe, but sometimes we might need to do more to protect ourselves and those around us. The CDC offers some guidance on when we should wear masks. People may choose to mask at any time. People who catch COVID-19 or who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask for a few days.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Are the vaccines safe for children? What about myocarditis?

For the most part, yes. In very rare cases, inflammation might occur in the heart (myocarditis) after getting a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. The risk of getting myocarditis after catching COVID-19 is much higher than the risk of getting it from the vaccine. The benefits of COVID-19 vaccines for children strongly outweigh the known risks.

Source: American College of Cardiology

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Why do I need to get a booster shot if the first shots protect against COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccines are working well to keep people from getting very sick from COVID-19. But the latest data show that booster shots protect us even more. The best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is to get the vaccine and a booster shot when you can. This is even truer for older people and those with certain health problems.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

What good will a booster shot do if I can still catch COVID-19?

You're right. People can catch COVID-19 even after they get a booster shot. But booster shots are still very useful where it matters most. They help prevent severe illness, the kind that fills up hospital beds and leads to death. Yes, we may catch COVID-19. But having had a booster means we won't get as sick when we do.

Source: Public Health Insider

Do the vaccines help protect me from the Omicron variant?

Experts are still learning about Omicron, but data show that the vaccines continue to do their job. They are very good at keeping people from getting so sick from COVID-19 that they have to go to the hospital. Booster shots help too. Booster shots "boost" our defense against the Omicron variant.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
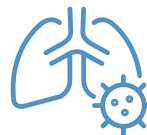
Do the vaccines protect me from long COVID?

Recent data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines might help prevent long COVID-19 and reduce its symptoms. People who get a COVID-19 vaccine are less likely to get long COVID symptoms. People who already have long COVID are less likely to report symptoms after they get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Source: UK Health Security Agency

Do I still need to wear a mask?

It depends. The CDC suggests masking based on local "COVID-19 Community Levels." In high-level spots, we should wear a mask in public indoor places. In medium-level spots, some people should talk to their doctors about masking. In low-level spots, we can choose to wear a mask, but the CDC does not require us to do so.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

What kind of mask should I wear?

Any mask is better than no mask, but some masks protect us more than others. "High filtration" masks like N95s, KN95s and KN94s protect us most. Make sure your mask fits over your nose and mouth. If you don't have a "high filtration" mask, you can wear two masks (a cloth mask over one you can throw away) to protect yourself more.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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