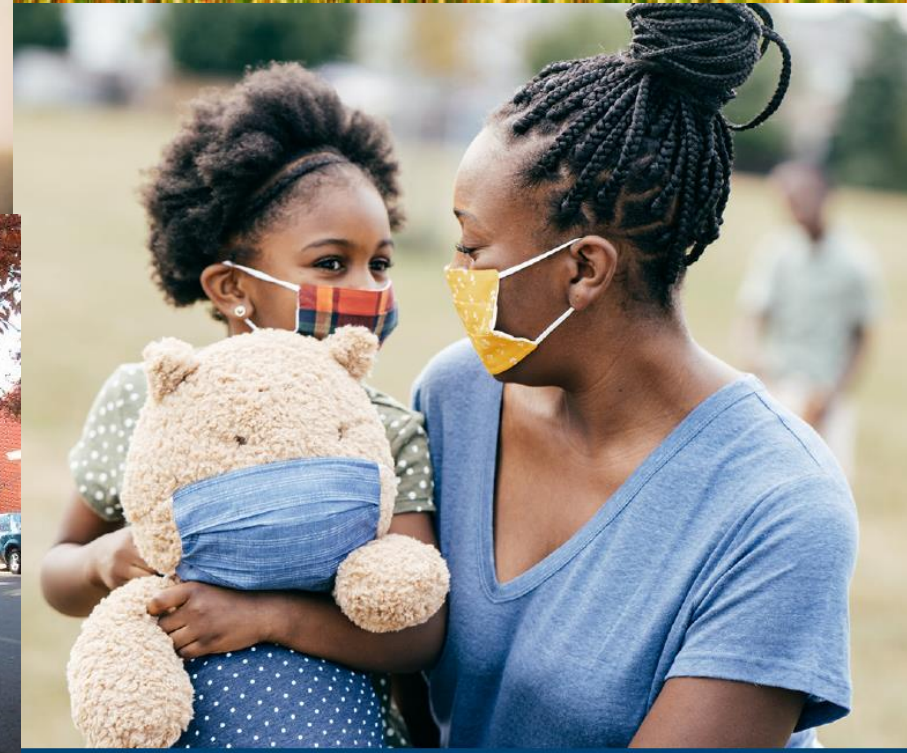




COVID-19 Vaccines TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT against COVID-19



**South Central Task Force
Medical Reserve Corps**

Last updated 16 Apr 2021



What we know about COVID-19

- Infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can result in a range of illnesses, from mild symptoms to severe illness and death.
- We don't know how SARS-CoV-2 will affect each person.
- Some people are more likely than others to become severely ill, such as older adults (65+ years) or people with certain medical conditions.





COVID-19 can be prevented.

- Wear a mask that **covers your mouth and nose.**
- Avoid close contact with others. **Stay at least 6 feet** (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose and mouth with **unwashed hands.**
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces daily.
- **Wash hands often with soap and water.**
- Use an **alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol** if soap and water are not available.



Protecting everyone from COVID starts with the 3 W's



Wearing a Mask Helps to Protect Others.

Wear a mask

Watch your distance

Wash your hands

6 Ft.

Why get vaccinated against COVID-19?

- SARS CoV-2 is a dangerous, unpredictable virus.
- Many people have gotten sick, had long-lasting effects from COVID-19 or died.
- Preventative measures and existing medications cannot completely control the pandemic.
- **Vaccines are proven tools in stopping disease** (smallpox, polio, measles, etc.).



COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from COVID-19

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine...

- Will help create an immune response in your body against the virus.
- May help keep you from getting severely ill, even if you do get COVID-19.
- May protect your family, coworkers, and patients because you are less likely to transmit the virus.



COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to build protection.

- Getting SARS Co-V2 may offer some natural protection, known as immunity. But the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity.
- COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody response and cell-based response without risking severe illness.
- Natural immunity and immunity produced by vaccines are important parts of COVID-19 disease that experts are learning more about.

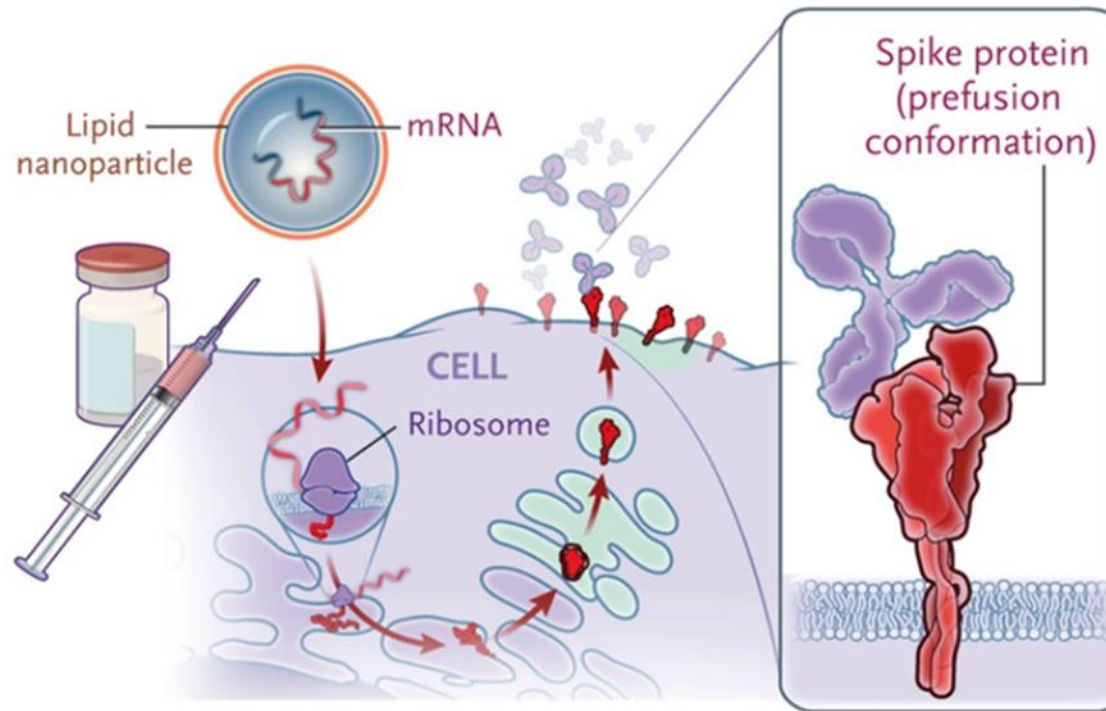


Do the vaccines work; are they effective?

- Two of the vaccines, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, use messenger RNA to help the body create antibodies (and cellular immunity) against the virus “spike protein”.
- The J and J/ Janssen vaccine uses DNA inside a weakened cold virus.
- All 3 vaccines are VERY effective at preventing death, and moderate /severe disease due to SARS-CoV-2.
- These technologies are not new and have been thoroughly tested.

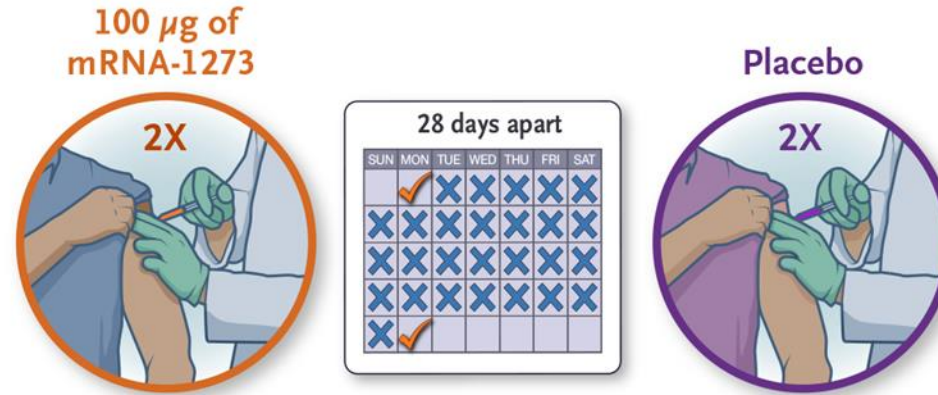


Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine



- First mRNA vaccine
- mRNA coated in lipid nanoparticles
- Delivers mRNA to muscle cells
- Teaches cell to produce spike protein
- Antibodies produced
- Cellular immunity also induced

Moderna Vaccine



Lipid nanoparticle coated mRNA codes SARS CoV-2 spike protein

Placebo-controlled, blinded trial, 19 sites

30,420 diverse participants, > age 18

Efficacy 94.1% overall

(25% >65, etc.)

No deaths or severe cases in vaccine group (30 cases, 1 fatality in placebo group)

Many had at least mild local pain, fatigue, headache, myalgia etc. more common after 2nd dose

Are COVID-19 Vaccines Safe?

- Tested in over 40,000 diverse volunteers, many countries, ages, ethnic groups
- 8+ weeks follow-up, safety monitoring, data are public
- Studies held to same standards as other vaccines
- Review by FDA, ACIP, CDC
- Multiple safety monitoring systems
- **Serious side effects rare, no deaths due to vaccines reported**



COVID-19 vaccines have received FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs)

- Three vaccines have received FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs):
 - **Pfizer/BioNTech (BNT162b2)**: 2 doses given at least 21 days apart
 - **Moderna (mRNA-1273)**: 2 doses given at least 28 days apart
 - **Johnson and Johnson (Ad6. COV2.S)**: 1 dose
- FDA's Emergency Use Authorization is a process that helps facilitate the availability and use of medicines and vaccines during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the **same safety standards** as all vaccines.

Sources: <https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine>
<https://investors.modernatx.com/news-releases/news-release-details/modernas-covid-19-vaccine-candidate-meets-its-primary-efficacy>



Robust Vaccine Safety Monitoring Systems Exist

- **Existing** systems and data sources are used to monitor safety of vaccines post-authorization and post-licensure, such as:
 - [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#)
 - [Vaccine Safety Datalink \(VSD\)](#)
 - [Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment \(CISA\)](#)
 - [Biologics Effectiveness and Safety System \(BEST\)](#)
- **New** systems have been developed to monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety, such as [v-safe](#):
 - Active surveillance that uses text messaging to initiate web-based survey monitoring.
 - Will provide telephone follow up to anyone who reports medically significant adverse events.



How do we know when these vaccines are safe when they are so new? What about long-term side effects?

- FDA and CDC are continuing to monitor safety.
- ACIP will take action to address any potential safety problems detected.
- The potential serious risks of COVID-19 illness vs. side effects

“COVID-19 vaccines are being tested in large clinical trials to learn more about their safety and effectiveness. However, it does take time and more people getting vaccinated before we can learn about very rare or long-term side effects. That is why safety monitoring will continue. CDC has an independent group of experts that reviews all the safety data as they come in and provides regular safety updates. Any possible problems will be quickly investigated to find out if the issue is related to the COVID-19 vaccine and determine the best course of action.”

About Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines

- At least 8 weeks of safety data were gathered after participants received their 2nd dose in the trials.
- It is unusual for side effects to appear more than 8 weeks after vaccination.
- **No significant safety concerns were identified in the clinical trials, a small number of severe allergic reactions have been reported.**
 - Recommendations for observation after vaccination include monitoring for 15 or 30 minutes.
 - If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, call 911 to seek immediate medical care.
 - Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and rare severe allergic reactions](#).



What vaccines are available?

The **Pfizer** and **Moderna** vaccines use messenger RNA to help the body create antibodies against the virus “spike protein”.

Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine uses DNA inside a weakened cold virus to create antibodies against the virus “spike protein.”

All 3 vaccines are VERY effective at preventing death, moderate and severe disease due to SARS-CoV-2.

These technologies are not new and have been thoroughly tested.



Which vaccine should I get?

Get the vaccine that you can take the soonest.





What can I expect when I get vaccinated?

- Some people get side effects similar to the shingles vaccine.
- Most people do not have serious problems after getting a vaccine. However, your arm may be sore or swollen.
- These symptoms usually go away on their own within a week.
- Some people report getting a headache, fever, fatigue, or body ache.
- These side effects are signs that your immune system is doing what it is supposed to do; working and building up protection to disease.
- **Serious side effects, such as severe allergic reactions are very rare.**



After Vaccination

- People are considered fully vaccinated:
 - 2 weeks after their **second** dose in a 2-dose series: the **Pfizer** or **Moderna** vaccines, or
 - 2 weeks after a **single-dose** vaccine: **Johnson & Johnson's Janssen** vaccine.
- If it has been **less than 2 weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected.** Keep taking all [prevention steps](#) until you are fully vaccinated.



WHAT YOU CAN DO ONCE YOU HAVE BEEN FULLY VACCINATED

Activity	
Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age	✓
Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness	✓
Travel domestically without a pre- or post-travel test	✓
Travel domestically without quarantining after travel	✓
Travel internationally without a pre-travel test depending on destination	✓
Travel internationally without quarantining after travel	✓
Visit indoors, without a mask, with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 .	✗
Attend medium or large gatherings	✗



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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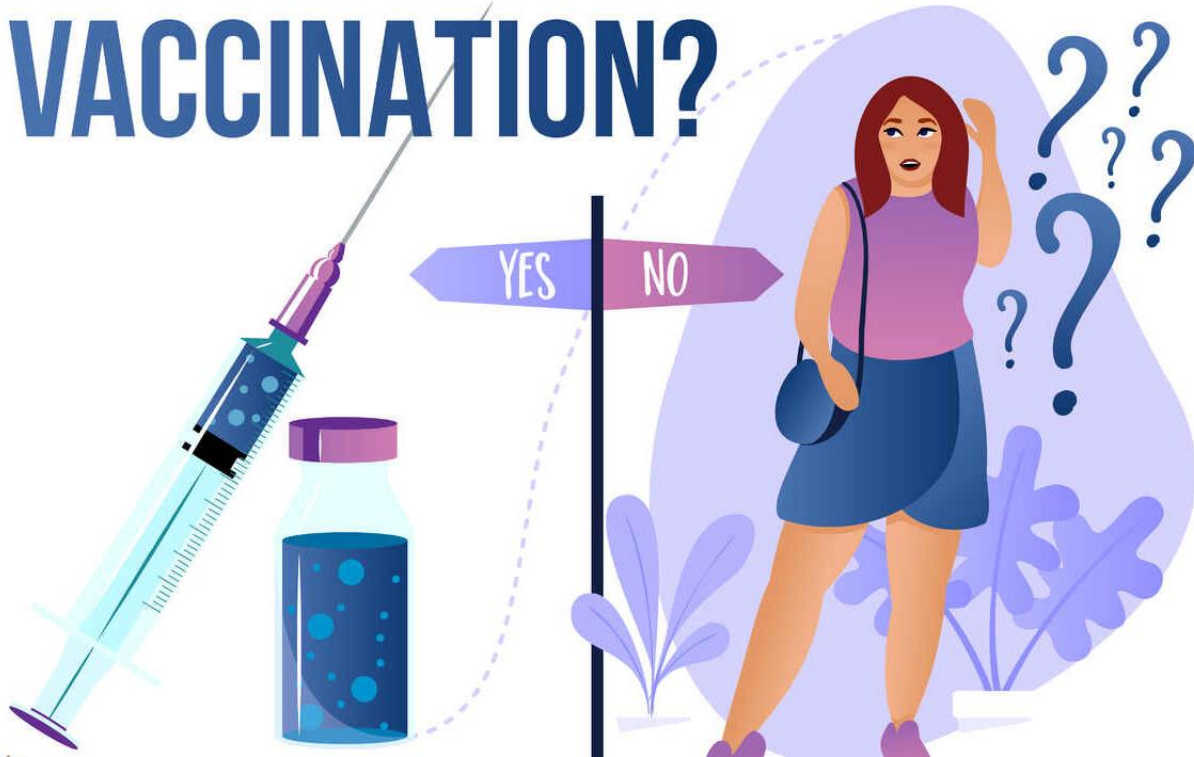
Can I get a shot if I've had COVID-19?

- Yes- Immunity from vaccination is more dependable, stronger.
- Wait until you are out of isolation
- Talk to your doctor if you have received antibody treatment



Should I get the vaccine if...

VACCINATION?



- I am pregnant/breastfeeding?

Yes, you can be vaccinated. Pregnancy increases risk with COVID-19. CDC and ACOG state that pregnant and lactating women may be vaccinated.

- I have an underlying condition (diabetes, heart disease etc.)?

Yes.

- I am on antibiotics?

Yes.

- I have a mild illness?

Yes.

- I just had another shot?

Yes.

Rumors and Myths: COVID-19 Vaccines

- The COVID-19 vaccine gives you COVID-19.

No. None of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19, so you cannot get the virus or the disease it causes from the vaccine.

- The vaccine causes infertility.

There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause infertility. Like all vaccines, scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects and will report findings as they come available.

- The vaccine will alter your DNA.

No. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. It disappears within minutes/hours from your body.

Addressing other rumors:

-The COVID-19 does not contain a tracker/microchip.

-Your personal information is not compromised. State vaccine registries record only that you have been vaccinated, they don't sell info.

Rely on information only from trusted established sources– local newspapers, radio, and TV stations, PA DOH website, CDC & trusted community leaders.



State & county governments, hospitals, clinics, and communities are building better ways for more people to find information and a vaccine provider.

- PA DOH **Your Turn** people locate a COVID vaccine provider when it's Your Turn
- Find out if it is your turn to get the COVID-19 vaccine in PA <https://covidportal.health.pa.gov/s/Your-Turn>
- Or call the Pennsylvania **Department of Health COVID hotline at 1-877-724-3258.**



YOU HAVE A
SPOT.

TAKE YOUR
SHOT.

When it's your turn

**TAKE
YOUR
BEST
SHOT**



Let's talk.

This has been brought to you by the South Central Regional Medical Reserve Corps.
A special thanks to Dr. Timothy Davis and Dr. Jocelyn Sivalingam for putting this presentation together.



Leading medical and professional organizations are encouraging Americans to get vaccinated.

