

Post COVID-19 vaccination FAQs

Q: How quickly after immunization does the vaccine protect the recipient, and how long does immunity last?

A: The studies recently reported start counting cases for efficacy, as part of the primary analyses, at 7 to 14 days after the second dose, which is likely how long it takes to get very high levels of neutralizing antibody. It is yet unknown how long immunity will last; however, this data will be continuously updated.

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/>

Q: Would you still recommend continuing full precautions after vaccination until community immunity is reached?

A: Yes! We will need to continue to practice physical distancing, wearing cloth face coverings and masks, and using PPE during medical encounters for some time after the vaccine is introduced. It will be some time before there is evidence that the vaccines not only prevent illness in the person who is vaccinated, but also prevent them from transmitting the virus. Until then we will need to practice these public health measures.

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/>

Q: What do we know about the new SARS-CoV-2 variants?

A: Multiple variants of SARS-CoV2 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic. New variants have been identified in England, South Africa, and Nigeria, and some are reported to spread more rapidly than existing strains. Information about these variants is rapidly emerging. There is no evidence these variants are more likely to cause severe disease or mortality than the known strains of SARS-CoV-2. Viruses often mutate, or develop small changes, as they reproduce and move through a population. Public health officials are monitoring this closely and continued surveillance is being conducted. Experts believe that the COVID-19 vaccine will be similarly effective against these new variants that have been reported to date.

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Q: If I get vaccinated, can I return to my normal activities without precautions?

No, at least not yet. Since no vaccine is 100% effective, not everyone will be protected from falling ill, so it's important to continue to be vigilant about physical distancing, avoiding crowds, wearing masks and washing hands, especially when the virus is continuing to circulate at high levels.

That's further compounded by the fact that it's not known yet if inoculation prevents someone from becoming infected or becoming contagious.

<https://www.factcheck.org/2020/12/qa-on-covid-19-vaccines/>

Q: How long will a person be protected if vaccinated?

Scientists don't know how long vaccination will last, but this is something that the clinical trials, which are continuing, will try to answer. It may turn out that people will need to receive an additional shot periodically to boost the immune system to extend the duration of protection.

<https://www.factcheck.org/2020/12/qa-on-covid-19-vaccines/>

Q: What vaccine safety surveillance programs are in place?

A: The US has a robust vaccine safety monitoring system that has been in place and operating for decades through the CDC and FDA. There is [expanded monitoring for COVID-19 vaccine](#), including a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines called V-SAFE. [V-SAFE](#) uses text messaging and web surveys from CDC to check in with vaccine recipients following COVID-19 vaccination, including second vaccine dose reminders if needed, and telephone follow up to anyone who reports medically significant adverse events. Healthcare providers should encourage patients to opt in for the V-SAFE program.

To sign up using your smart phone, take a photo of this QR code:



Sign up with your smartphone's browser at vsafe.cdc.gov

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/>

