

Do You Have Questions About the **COVID-19 Vaccine?**

We have collected a list of the most frequently asked questions from teens about to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Don't see your question listed? Visit www.phila.gov/covid-19 or call **215-685-5488** for more information.

How do COVID-19 vaccines work?

COVID-19 vaccines are medicines that help your immune (defense) system fight the COVID-19 virus. The vaccine may be one or two injections depending on the brand.

The vaccine trains your body's immune (defense) system to recognize the COVID-19 virus. This training makes it harder for the COVID-19 virus to get you sick. For some vaccine brands, a second injection is needed to build the best protection against COVID-19.

What are the possible side-effects?

Some possible side effects include a sore arm, muscle aches, headache, tiredness, chills, or fever. These are all normal! They usually do not last more than 1-2 days. Side effects are signals that your immune (defense) system is working and your body is building protection against the COVID-19 virus.

Does the vaccine change your DNA or give you other diseases?

Are you injecting the COVID-19 virus? No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change your DNA, and do not give you any diseases. The vaccine contains incomplete, inactive pieces of the COVID-19 virus which helps your body learn how to fight it.

Wasn't the COVID-19 vaccine made for adults?

No. The Pfizer vaccine is also for teens 12 years and older! The vaccine works the same way for teens and adults. Hopefully, the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will also be ready for teens soon. The goal is to have COVID-19 vaccines for everyone, including younger kids, so everyone is protected from COVID-19 disease.

Do I need my parents' permission to get the vaccine?

No. Teens 12 and older can choose to get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine by themselves. We do encourage you to talk to your parents or adults you trust about your decision.

Why should young people get a COVID-19 vaccine?

People of all ages can get COVID-19 disease. Although older people seem to have worse symptoms, there is still a chance that young people can get very sick or have symptoms that can last a long time. Some young people have died from COVID-19. There is also a chance of passing the virus to friends, neighbors, and older family members who are at risk of getting very sick and dying. Getting vaccinated lets you do the things you enjoyed before the COVID-19 pandemic, while staying safe and protecting others!

What if I already got COVID-19?

You should still get the vaccine. We do not know how long someone is protected after getting COVID-19 disease. The vaccine gives your body extra training to fight the COVID-19 virus, so you don't get sick again. Getting the vaccine also decreases the spread of the virus, and helps keep your family, neighbors, and friends safe.

Were the vaccines tested?

Yes. The vaccines were tested in thousands of teen and adult volunteers of different ages, races, ethnicities, and those with certain medical conditions. These studies showed that the vaccines were safe and gave people very good protection from getting sick or dying from COVID-19 disease. Millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses have been given in the United States. Many people are looking closely to make sure there are no safety problems.

Do I still need to wear a mask and social distance after getting vaccinated?

In most places, you do not need to wear a mask if you are vaccinated. This is because the vaccine gives you protection from getting sick from COVID-19 disease. However, because it is important to be more careful until most people get the vaccine and the virus stops spreading, there are some places where it is the rule for everyone to wear a mask.

Can I get COVID-19 after getting vaccinated?

The vaccines are very good at training your body to fight the COVID-19 virus, but they are not perfect, so there is a very small chance that you could still get COVID-19 disease. But if you do get sick, it will usually be mild. If you feel sick, please stay at home and get tested for COVID-19 disease. Scientists are continuing to study how long vaccine protection lasts and if extra doses of vaccine will be needed in the future.

Where do I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

You can make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment with your doctor, local health center, nearby pharmacy or a community health organization.

