

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

We have collected a list of the most frequently asked questions from pregnant people, or people trying to get pregnant, 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 system fight the COVID-19 virus. They come in the form of one or two injections depending on the vaccine brand.

The vaccine helps your body's immune (defense) system recognize the COVID-19 virus. After receiving the injection, the vaccine will greatly reduce your chances of getting sick.

Are you injecting the **COVID-19 virus?**

No. COVID-19 vaccines contain incomplete pieces of the COVID-19 virus. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain live COVID-19 virus.

Are these **COVID-19 vaccines safe in pregnancy?**

We have limited but growing data from people who chose to be vaccinated during their pregnancy. **Early data did not find safety concerns for pregnant people who received the vaccine or their babies.** Recent studies have shown that people who have received COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy can pass on antibodies to their fetuses, which can potentially help protect them from COVID-19 disease after birth.

Data is being collected as more pregnant people receive vaccines and we will continue to learn about effects of the vaccine on pregnant individuals and babies.

If I am pregnant, should I receive the **COVID-19 vaccines?**

This is an individual decision. It may be helpful to discuss with your doctor. If pregnant individuals get COVID-19 disease, they have a higher risk of getting very sick and having premature birth. When making the decision, it is important to weigh your risk of getting COVID-19 disease against the unknown risk of the vaccine.

If I am breastfeeding, should I receive the **COVID-19 vaccines?**

Experts think that it is most likely safe. Based on science, the vaccines are thought to be harmless to the breastfeeding baby.

If a small bit of vaccine gets into breastmilk, it will go into the baby's stomach and be digested. It is also possible that protective antibodies against COVID-19 virus could be passed to the baby through breastmilk. However, more studies are needed since breastfeeding individuals were not included in the vaccine trials.

If I am trying to get pregnant, should I receive the **COVID-19 vaccines?**

Based on the science we know, COVID-19 vaccines are not thought to affect the ability to get pregnant. If you have the opportunity to be vaccinated before you get pregnant, this will give you protection from COVID-19 during your pregnancy.

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

Continue to wear your mask, until you're fully vaccinated. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna and two weeks after Johnson & Johnson.

In general, we still need to be cautious until most people have received the vaccine and the virus stops spreading. Please continue to follow guidance on masking where it is required. However, there are many things that people who are vaccinated can safely do. If vaccinated, you do not need to get a routine test for COVID-19 disease or quarantine when traveling. You also do not need to quarantine after exposure to someone with COVID-19 disease unless you develop symptoms.

What are the potential side-effects?

Potential short-term side effects include a sore arm, general muscle aches, headache, fatigue, chills, and fever. These side effects are signals that your immune system is working and your body is building protection against the COVID-19 virus.

Do I need a vaccine if I had COVID-19?

Yes. We do not know how long someone is protected after getting COVID-19 disease, and so recommend getting a vaccine. However, getting infected with COVID-19 disease again within 90 days is uncommon, so if you had a recent COVID-19 infection you can delay vaccination until the end of this period or get the vaccine as soon as you have been cleared from isolation.

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.

