




CORONAVIRUS

“Based on existing evidence, the benefits of vaccination against COVID-19 significantly outweigh the extremely low risk of blood clots or other hematologic complications reported after vaccination. In fact, COVID-19 infection carries a much higher risk of blood clots —147,000 in 1 million hospitalized COVID-19 patients experience clots, compared to roughly two in 1 million individuals who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.”

American Society of Hematology (ASH) President Martin S. Tallman, M.D.

FACTS ON VACCINES

Types of vaccines at a glance

			
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
Who can get this vaccine	People 12 years and older	People 16 years and older	People 16 years and older
How many shots needed	2 shots — given 21 days apart	2 shots — given 28 days apart	1 shot
When fully vaccinated	2 weeks after second shot	2 weeks after second shot	2 weeks after shot
Type of vaccine	mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid)	mRNA	Viral vector

Vaccine myths debunked

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine is not safe because it was rapidly developed and tested.
FACT: Many pharmaceutical companies invested significant resources into quickly developing a vaccine for COVID-19 because of the worldwide impact of the pandemic. The emergency situation warranted an emergency response but that does not mean that companies bypassed safety protocols or didn't perform adequate testing.

MYTH: I already had COVID-19 and recovered, so don't need to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it's available.
FACT: There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. This is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. Mayo Clinic recommends getting the COVID-19 vaccine, even if you've had COVID-19 previously. People should not get vaccinated if in quarantine after exposure or if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

MYTH: Many will experience severe side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines.
FACT: There are short-term mild or moderate vaccine reactions that resolve without complication or injury. Serious side effects are extraordinarily rare with any of the three vaccines administered in the U.S., including the Johnson & Johnson vaccine which was paused because of concern over a handful of instances of people who developed blood clots after receiving it. The chances of such a reaction are a tiny fraction of 1 percent. About 15% of people developed short-lived symptoms at the site of the injection. Fifty percent developed systemic reactions primarily headache, chills, fatigue or muscle pain or fever lasting for a day or two. Keep in mind that these side effects are indicators that your immune system is responding to the vaccine and are common when receiving vaccines.

MYTH: I won't need to wear a mask after I get the COVID-19 vaccine.
FACT: It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. Until more is understood about how well the vaccine works, continuing with precautions such as mask-wearing and physical distancing will be important.

MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility or miscarriage.
FACT: No, COVID-19 vaccines have not been linked to infertility or miscarriage.

A sophisticated disinformation campaign has been circulating online, claiming that antibodies to the spike protein of COVID-19 produced from these vaccines will bind to placental proteins and prevent pregnancy. This disinformation is thought to originate from internet postings by a former scientist known to hold anti-vaccine views. These postings are not scientifically plausible, as COVID-19 infection has not been linked to infertility.

SOURCE: Marsha Tanula, Mayo Clinic News Network

Three vaccines developed to inoculate against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 have become the centerpiece in the effort in the U.S. to halt the ongoing pandemic.


Yet, vaccine hesitancy has become a significant roadblock on the path to herd immunity. That hesitancy stems from a combination of fear and rampant disinformation.

Officials with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say vaccines in the U.S. are an overwhelming public health success story that have effectively eradicated deadly diseases like smallpox and the wild polio virus. They also have dramatically reduced the number of people each year who are afflicted by infectious diseases like measles, and whooping cough.

The vast majority of Americans have received vaccines in their lifetime, a fact experts with the CDC say has helped generations of people live longer and avoid preventable illnesses.

“The CDC and the FDA are the gold standard for both safety and the evaluation of efficacy, I think in the long run what we’re going to see — we’ll probably see it soon — is that people will realize that we take safety very seriously,” said White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci during a TV interview in late April.

Vaccine testing begins in the laboratory, and continues through trials involving thousands of human volunteers prior to a vaccine being licensed for widespread use. In the case of the three COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the U.S., more than 110,000 people volunteered and participated in trials. Those studies, and close tracking of more than 235 million doses administered since have found exceedingly few instances — a fraction of one percent chance — of serious side effects or reactions.



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Dr. Anthony Fauci

CONTENT: CNHI News Michigan: Andy Taylor, Nathan Payne GRAPHIC: Brian Steele



Record-Eagle file photo/Jan-Michael Stump

Ivy Lane, R.N., of Northwest Michigan Health Services in Traverse City, Michigan, fills syringes with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine during a clinic at Blaine Christian Church in Arcadia, Michigan.

Things to know

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at teaching our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes the disease.
- Studies show the vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19 and also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get sick.
- Millions of people in the U.S. have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- These vaccines can't give you COVID-19.
- It's possible a person could still get COVID-19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine didn't have enough time to provide protection.
- You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal. Side effects such as chills or tiredness may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.
- You are not fully vaccinated until two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose vaccine or two weeks after a one-dose vaccine.
- Vaccines are now more widely accessible in the U.S. Many doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals and clinics are now or will soon be able to offer them.
- Most people 12 years and older are now eligible for vaccination.
- Vaccination is an important tool to help us get back to normal. People who have been fully vaccinated can start to do some things they had stopped doing because of the pandemic.
- Use all the tools available to protect yourself and others until fully vaccinated: wear a mask, stay 6 feet away from others, and wash your hands often.
- The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the U.S., regardless of immigration or health insurance status.
- Vaccination providers can't charge you for the vaccine.

— Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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