

COVID-19 Vaccinations

What You Need to Know

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a fast-spreading virus that can cause serious illness, breathing problems and death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strongly recommends that everyone who is able get a COVID-19 vaccine. These vaccines help you stay healthy. They also slow the spread of COVID-19, making them the best thing you can do to keep yourself and others healthy.

Everyone 12 years of age and older and who is not immunocompromised can get a COVID-19 vaccine. After you get the vaccine, you may have some side effects like headache, tiredness and chills. These reactions are normal and the side effects should go away in a few days.

The vaccine is free of charge to all people living in the United States. If you don't have health insurance, or if you are not yet a full U.S. citizen, you can still get the vaccine free of charge.

Delta Variant

The Delta variant is a new strain of the COVID-19 virus. It causes more infections and spreads faster than earlier versions of the virus. The best thing you can do to keep from getting sick is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are also effective against the Delta variant. It will increase the chance that you will not need to be admitted to the hospital. Please be aware, if you are fully vaccinated and become infected, you might be able to spread the virus to others, so if you test positive for COVID-19 be sure to quarantine according to CDC guidelines.

QualChoice wants to help you stay safe. To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine or to find a vaccine location, visit Healthy.Arkansas.gov.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions:

How does the COVID-19 Vaccine Work?

Vaccines cause your immune system to produce antibodies, and these antibodies fight the disease. This builds your immunity, exactly like it would if you were exposed to the disease. After getting vaccinated, you are protected without having to get the virus first.

Do COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain microchips. Vaccines are made to fight disease and cannot track your movement.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I want to have a baby?

Yes. If you want to be pregnant now or in the future, you may get a COVID-19 vaccine. There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause any problems with pregnancy. There is also no evidence of the COVID-19 vaccine causing any problems with female or male fertility.

Will getting a COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on viral tests. If your body develops an immune response to the vaccine, which is the goal, you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate if you have antibodies to protect yourself against the COVID-19 virus.

The COVID-19 vaccines were developed fast. Are they safe?

The technology used to develop the new mRNA COVID-19 vaccines isn't new. It's been studied and used for cancer research, and the original research on messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines is decades old. The other vaccine platform uses a weakened adenovirus, which has been studied extensively for other vaccines. Clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccines were done with the same rigor applied to all vaccine trials, and the results were reviewed and approved by multiple independent advisory panels. FDA Emergency Use Authorizations for medical countermeasures, including vaccines, are used during public health emergencies, such as a pandemic.

If I've already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes, if you have already had COVID-19, you should still get the vaccine. It isn't clear yet how long a natural COVID-19 infection provides immunity from the disease. Some people have become infected a second time with the virus, even after being very ill with COVID-19. The CDC recommends that a recovering COVID-19 patient get the COVID-19 vaccine 90 days after being infected.

