



COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and Answers

For DSH Patients

1/12/21

Should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

We strongly recommend you get vaccinated. If you still get infected after you get vaccinated, the vaccine may prevent serious illness. By getting vaccinated, you can also help protect people around you.

How do I know if COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

All COVID-19 vaccines were tested to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns.

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines use the virus that causes COVID-19.

If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. We recommend that you get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19, because you can catch it more than once.

Can I take the vaccine if I have allergies?

You can still take the vaccine even if you are allergic to:

- Food, pet dander, latex
- Eggs, gelatin
- Oral medications
- Venom, environment (e.g., dust, pollen)
- Vaccines in the past (except the COVID-19 Vaccines). If you have had a previous reaction to a vaccine, please let the vaccination staff know so that appropriate precautions are taken.

- History of a family member with severe reaction to a vaccine

If I had a previous allergic reaction to a vaccine, why do I have to let staff know about it?

Staff need to take special precautions for your safety. You will be observed by your staff for 30 minutes after the injection of the vaccine to ensure that you don't develop a serious allergic reaction. People without a history of an allergic reaction to a vaccine are observed for 15 minutes.

Can a person who is currently sick with active COVID-19 or another illness take the vaccine?

Yes, but it is highly recommended that they wait until they recover to avoid infecting others.

Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have other medical conditions?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with other health problems like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.

Will the shot hurt or make me sick?

There may be side effects, but they should go away within a few days. Possible side effects include a sore arm, headache, fever, or body aches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. Side effects are signs that the vaccine is working to build immunity. Be sure to tell staff about any side effects you are experiencing.

What are the most common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines?

Side effects of the vaccines usually develop within 3 days of the injection and resolve after 1-2 days. Side effects include redness, swelling and pain at the injection site; fever, fatigue, headaches, chills, vomiting, diarrhea, joint pain and muscle pain.

Are there long-term side effects from COVID-19 vaccine?

Because all COVID-19 vaccines are new, it will take more time and more people getting vaccinated to learn about very rare or possible long-term side effects. It's unusual for vaccine side effects to appear more than 8 weeks after vaccination.

Why do I need two COVID-19 shots?

The vaccines require two doses to be fully effective. The first shot helps the immune system recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune response. You need both to get the best protection. It is very important that you get both shots to be fully protected. You will get your second shot either three or four weeks after your first shot, depending on which vaccine you get. Your staff will tell you when your second shot needs to be given.

If I take the first dose of the vaccine and get a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) can I take the second dose?

No, is not recommended for you to take the second dose.



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What are the most common signs of an allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine?

Hives, itching, swelling of lips, face or/and throat feeling as throat is closing, stridor (high pitch sound when breathing), confusion, disorientation, dizziness, lightheadedness, weakness, loss of consciousness, shortness of breath, wheezing, trouble breathing, low blood oxygen, high blood pressure, rapid heart rate, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea are all signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine.

How long should I be monitored for an adverse reaction after vaccination?

All people who get a COVID-19 vaccine will be monitored. People who have had severe allergic reactions or who have had any type of immediate allergic reaction to a vaccine or injectable therapy will be monitored for at least 30 minutes after getting the vaccine. All other people will be monitored for at least 15 minutes after getting the vaccine. In addition, you should report any symptoms that might be side effects to staff immediately.

If I get the first dose of the vaccine, is it ok if I take the second dose a day or two before my second vaccination is due?

Yes, you can take the second dose of the vaccine up to 4 days prior to or up to 4 days after the due date.

If I have taken the first of the two doses of the vaccine, do I still have to participate in COVID-19 testing?

Yes. The vaccine does not interfere with COVID-19

testing. Since the vaccine takes time to work and is not 100% effective, DSH will continue to perform COVID-19 testing.

What should I do if I contract COVID-19 after receiving my first dose of the vaccine but before receiving my second dose?

The second dose of the vaccine should be delayed until you recover from COVID-19 (if you had symptoms) and have met the criteria to discontinue isolation.

What should I do if I miss my second scheduled dose of the vaccine?

If, for some reason, you are unable to receive the second dose at the recommended interval, you don't have to start all over again with another two-dose regimen. You should get the second dose as soon as possible.

Do I need to wear a mask and physically distance from others after I receive both doses of the vaccine?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following these recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

I have received monoclonal antibody thera-

py or convalescent therapy while I had active COVID-19, can I take the vaccine?

Yes, but you may have to wait depending on how long ago you recovered from COVID-19. The CDC recommends waiting 3 months after recovery of symptoms to get the vaccine.

Can I get vaccinated if I am pregnant or lactating?

The COVID-19 vaccines can be taken during pregnancy. This is important to know since getting the COVID-19 virus while pregnant can produce a more severe illness. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

I have a history of Bell's palsy, can I get vaccinated?

Yes, persons who have previously had Bell's palsy may receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

I have a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), can I get vaccinated?

Yes, persons who have previously had Guillain-Barre syndrome may receive a COVID-19 vaccine. No cases of GBS have been reported following COVID-19 vaccination.

If you have any other questions, ask your staff or doctor