

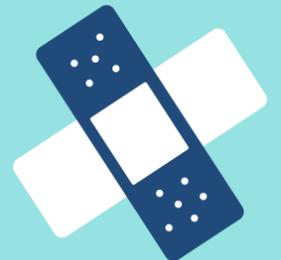
# COVID-19 VACCINE Q&A



Explore answers to some common questions to help you make an informed choice about vaccination

## 1 HOW DOES THE COVID-19 VACCINE WORK ?

The vaccine gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the COVID-19 virus. After our cells make copies of the protein, they destroy the material from the vaccine. Our bodies recognize that the protein should not be there and build white blood cells that will remember how to fight the virus if we are infected in the future.



## 2 DOES THE VACCINE HAVE SIDE EFFECTS?

Common side effects include pain and swelling in the arm where you got the shot, fever, chills, tiredness and headaches. If you do experience any of these you can talk to your doctor. Experiencing mild symptoms after the vaccine is common and means your body is reacting well and building immunity against the COVID-19 virus.



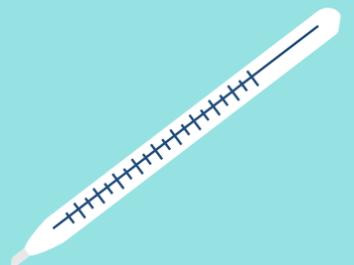
## 3 WHY DO SOME VACCINES REQUIRE 2 DOSES?

Some types of COVID-19 vaccines do require 2 doses. Two doses offer the full-benefit of the vaccine. The 1st dose helps your body create a reaction against the virus. The second dose gives your immune system a boost for long term protection.



## 4 CAN I GET VACCINATED IF I AM IMMUNOCOMPROMISED?

Talk with your doctor for individualized guidance, but experts generally recommend that individuals with compromised immune systems get the vaccine. People who are immunocompromised are at an increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness compared to those without any underlying condition.



## 5 CAN PREGNANT AND BREASTFEEDING WOMEN GET VACCINATED ?

Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding may choose to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Talk with your health care provider to make an informed decision.

## 6 CAN CHILDREN AND TEENS GET VACCINATED?

At this time, some vaccines are approved for people 16 and older, and others for those 18 and older. Several pharmaceutical companies have been enrolling younger children in recent COVID-19 vaccine trials. More information to come!



## 7 HOW WAS THE VACCINE DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?

COVID-19 is very similar to viruses that had a outbreak in 2003. This means that the experts who were working on the vaccine did not have to start from scratch. Experts from across the globe worked together and shared research more than ever before. Every study, and every phase of every trial, was carefully reviewed and approved by a safety board and the Food and Drug Administration.



## 8 HOW CAN I GET THE VACCINE?

As of Monday, April 19th, all individuals aged 16 and older will be eligible for vaccination.

Find a vaccination location near you:

[covid19.nj.gov/pages/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-eligible-recipients](https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/covid-19-vaccine-locations-for-eligible-recipients)



For more information, check out these websites or talk to your doctor.

CDC COVID-19 Information: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/)

New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub: [covid19.nj.gov](https://covid19.nj.gov)

New Jersey Department of Health YouTube Channel: [bit.ly/NJCOVIDVAX](https://bit.ly/NJCOVIDVAX)



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