Facts About the COVID-19 Vaccine

Who makes the vaccine?
Currently, two vaccines are authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19: Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

Both vaccines went through a rigorous, transparent clinical trial and approval process and were found to be >94% effective.

Medical experts agree that both vaccines are safe and effective at protecting you against COVID-19.

Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?
No. The vaccines do not contain anything that can make you sick. The COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA. mRNA vaccines give our cells instructions for making a harmless protein found on the outside surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. This “spike protein” trains our immune system to target the virus when it shows up.

Will the vaccine protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?
Yes. The vaccine can keep you safe by preparing your immune system to immediately recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19 before it can spread and cause damage.

When will I be protected?
You must receive 2 doses of the vaccine 3–4 weeks apart for maximum protection against COVID-19. Full protection occurs about 2 weeks after your second dose.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine change my DNA?
No. The COVID-19 mRNA vaccines cannot alter your DNA in any way.

What if I’ve already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?
Yes. It is important to get vaccinated for longer and better protection.

According to the CDC, “because there are severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, the vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection.”

Do I still need to wear a mask?
Yes. We will still need to protect our families, friends and communities from COVID-19 while people are getting vaccinated: Mask, Social Distance, Avoid Large Groups, Practice Good Hand Hygiene.

Where can I find more information about the COVID-19 vaccine?
There are several reputable sources to learn more:
- Center for Disease Control (CDC.gov)
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS.gov)
- World Health Organization (WHO.int)

SOURCES
- www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/index.html
- www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/evalwebs.htm