CDC Topline Key Points: COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Update

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- Results from these monitoring efforts are reassuring.
- Some people have no side effects. Many people have reported mild side effects after COVID-19 vaccination, like pain or swelling at the injection site, a headache, chills, or fever. These reactions are common.
- The combination of COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others offers the best protection from COVID-19.
- CDC recommends people get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as vaccine is available to them.
- CDC, FDA, and other federal partners will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines as they continue to become more broadly used in the population.

Reports of Anaphylaxis After COVID-19 Vaccination

- Severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, can occur after any vaccination.
- Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 vaccination is **rare**. If this occurs, vaccination providers can effectively and immediately treat the reaction.
- CDC and FDA scientists have evaluated reports from people who experienced anaphylaxis after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 vaccination is **rare** and occurred in approximately 2 to 5 people per million vaccinated based on events reported to VAERS.
  - As a precaution, people receiving COVID-19 vaccines will be asked to stay for 15–30 minutes after getting their vaccine so that they can be observed and provided treatment in the rare case it is needed.

Reports of Death After COVID-19 Vaccination

- FDA requires vaccination providers to report any death after COVID-19 vaccination to VAERS.
- Reports of death to VAERS following vaccination do not necessarily mean the vaccine caused the death.
- CDC follows up on any report of death to request additional information and learn more about what occurred and to determine whether the death was a result of the vaccine or unrelated.
- **To date, VAERS has not detected patterns in cause of death that would indicate a safety problem with COVID-19 vaccines.**
- CDC, FDA, and other federal partners will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Over 41,210,937 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered in the United States from December 14, 2020 through February 7, 2021. During this time, VAERS received 1,170 reports of death among people who received a COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information, please see the following presentations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting January 27, 2021:

- *COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Update*
- *COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Technical (VaST) Subgroup*

In addition, see CDC's new webpage on [selected adverse events reported after COVID-19 vaccination](#).
You can also find more information about [COVID-19 vaccine safety](#) on the CDC's website.

CDC Topline Key Points: COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness

- Large clinical trials of the vaccines currently authorized for use in the US showed they were 94-95% effective at preventing COVID disease.
- CDC continues to conduct studies to understand vaccine effectiveness under real-world conditions.
- The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to follow CDC's recommendations, including getting COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to you.
- Other ways to protect yourself against COVID-19 include wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others who do not live in your household, avoiding gatherings and poorly ventilated places, and washing hands regularly.
- COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 vaccines help protect people who get vaccinated from getting sick or being hospitalized with COVID-19.
- CDC recommends people get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as vaccine is available to them.

COVID-19 Cases after Vaccination

- There have been some reports of COVID-19 cases among people who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- It is expected that some COVID-19 cases will occur among people who are vaccinated against COVID-19.
- It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination.
- Clinical studies showed currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective but not 100% effective against COVID-19 illness. Since the vaccines are not 100% effective, some people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will still get sick.
- Some cases occurred during the 1-2 weeks after vaccination because the people were infected before vaccination, or because their bodies did not have enough time to develop the antibodies to protect them from the virus.
- CDC is studying reports of COVID-19 cases that occur after vaccination to better understand the reasons these cases occurred.
- There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 cases after vaccination are occurring because of changes in the virus.
- Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

Vaccine Effectiveness against Virus Variants

- New variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 illness, have emerged. CDC has systems in place to monitor how common these variants are and look out for the emergence of additional new variants.
- Current data for most variants suggest that vaccine protection against COVID-19 should not be affected.

- Some preliminary data suggest that some COVID-19 vaccines approved for use outside of the United States, may be less effective against the B.1.351 variant, first found in South Africa.
- CDC will continue to monitor new variants for any impact on real-world vaccine effectiveness.
- COVID-19 vaccines continue to be an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including against new variants.