

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19, or sometimes called coronavirus, is an illness that spreads easily. Most people who get COVID-19 will only have mild to moderate symptoms and recover easily. However, older people and those with chronic illnesses are more likely to develop serious illness. They may be hospitalized or even die.

How could I get COVID-19?

COVID-19 spreads through respiratory droplets. Respiratory droplets are released into the air when a person coughs, sneezes, speaks, and breathes. These droplets can be breathed in by others and cause the virus to spread. We can prevent the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, watching our distance, and washing our hands. We now have vaccines to also help reduce the spread COVID-19.

What is the COVID-19 Vaccine?

COVID-19 has 3 vaccines approved for use in the U.S.

- Moderna
- Pfizer
- Johnson & Johnson

Moderna & Pfizer are both 2 dose vaccines given 3-4 weeks apart. Johnson & Johnson is a single dose vaccine.

Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

We know that COVID-19 can cause serious illness, long-term side-effects, and even death, especially for those at higher risk. COVID-19 vaccines keep most people from getting COVID-19, especially serious cases where people are hospitalized or die. The more people who receive the vaccine, the safer we will all be. You can do your part by getting your vaccine!

Is the vaccine safe?

The COVID-19 vaccines continue to prove to be safe and effective. Millions of people have received the vaccine since December 2020.

Will I have side effects to the vaccine?

A small number of people may have short-term side effects after the vaccine. These usually go away within a couple of days. Common side effects include redness where you received your shot, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, and fever. If you have side effects, this does not mean that you are sick with COVID-19. Side effects mean your immune system is responding and building antibodies to defend itself against the COVID-19 virus.

What changes when I get the vaccine?

A person is considered "fully vaccinated" two weeks after their final vaccine dose (or single dose with Johnson & Johnson). When someone is fully vaccinated, they can be around other fully vaccinated people without wearing masks. Those who have been vaccinated should continue to wear a mask and be careful around unvaccinated people, especially in public and around higher-risk people. The more people who are fully vaccinated the safer we will all be. Let's finish strong.

For questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, please reach out to coronavirus@springfieldmo.gov or (417)-874-1211.



VACCINE MYTHS

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>



You can get COVID from the vaccine.

I am worried that my fatigue and headache following the vaccine may mean I can get others around me sick.



You **cannot** get COVID from the vaccine.

The mRNA vaccines currently available for use in the U.S. do not contain any live or dead COVID virus. You cannot get others sick from the vaccine.



The COVID vaccine may impact fertility.

I have heard that the new technology used for the COVID vaccine can affect my ability to get pregnant now and in the future.



There is **no evidence** that any vaccines affect fertility.

Based on current knowledge, experts believe that COVID-19 vaccines are unlikely to pose a risk to a person trying to become pregnant in the short or long term.



The mRNA vaccine can alter my DNA.

I have heard that the new technology used for the COVID vaccine can alter my DNA.



THE mRNA vaccine **cannot** alter DNA.

The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way.



I do not need the vaccine if I already had COVID.

I am now safe from the virus.



Re-infection is possible with COVID so vaccine is recommended.

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19, you should receive the vaccine regardless of if have had the virus. Although uncommon, reinfection has been documented.

