

Covid-19 FAQs

Information from:

University of Michigan, University of Missouri,
Mayo Clinic, CHOP, and National Institutes of Health



Q. Why should I get vaccinated when many other people are vaccinated? Aren't I already protected?

A. Unvaccinated people still have a significant risk of developing Covid. A recent study showed that 98% of persons in the hospital for Covid were unvaccinated, and most were under the age of 50.

Q. Why should I get vaccinated when Covid is just like the flu?

A. Covid is not just like the flu – it has a much wider range of symptoms and a higher chance of long term side effects than the flu. Even months after a mild infection, people are experiencing damage to the heart or lungs, increased risk of stroke, inflammation of organs, fatigue, and many other symptoms.

Some people have underlying conditions that make it more likely they will get severely ill from Covid. Conditions shown to cause more severe Covid include:

- Being overweight
- Being over age 45
- Having moderate to severe asthma
- Having diabetes
- Being pregnant
- Having chronic illness such as heart disease or COPD
- Genetic anomalies
- In addition, men are more likely than women to die from Covid

Health officials strongly encourage people with these conditions to protect themselves and get the Covid vaccine.

Q. Aren't the Covid-19 vaccines too new to really know if they are safe?

A: The Covid-19 vaccine technologies have been studied for years and used in other treatments without issue.

The vaccines made by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech use messenger RNA. Researchers have been studying and working with mRNA vaccines for decades. mRNA

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vaccines have been studied before for influenza, Zika, and rabies. Beyond vaccines, cancer research has used mRNA to target specific cancer cells.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine uses a modified version of a common cold virus to teach cells how to fight the coronavirus infection. Scientists began using this method in the 1970s, and it has been studied for gene therapy and cancer treatment. Some vaccines developed for Ebola outbreaks use this process, as well as vaccines for other infectious diseases such as Zika, influenza, and HIV.

Q. Should women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or want to become pregnant get vaccinated against Covid-19?

A. You might see claims that the Covid-19 vaccine can make someone infertile, harm a developing fetus in the womb, make the immune system attack the placenta, or hurt a baby who is breastfeeding from a recently vaccinated mother.

There's no evidence for any of these claims, and no scientific reason to think that any of them are true. But there is an urgent need to protect pregnant women from Covid-19, including through vaccination, because we now know they face a high risk of getting seriously ill if they catch the coronavirus. The virus also increases their risk of miscarriage or stillbirth.

Q. Where can I get the Covid-19 vaccine?

A. There are many places to be vaccinated. CVS, RiteAid, Walgreens, Walmart, Costco, Giant, and many other retail locations are offering the vaccine at no cost to you.

Being vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and the ones you love from Covid. Please, if you have questions about getting vaccinated, reach out to you director for more information.