

COVID-19 vaccines: Know the facts



COVID-19 vaccines play an important part in protecting ourselves, our families, and each other from the coronavirus. Arm yourself with COVID-19 vaccine details so you'll be ready to get vaccinated when it's your turn.

Fact: COVID-19 vaccines have been rigorously evaluated for safety and effectiveness.

All COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use have gone through rigorous studies to ensure they are safe to use. In addition, systems are in place across the country that allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to watch for safety issues on an ongoing basis.

Fact: You can't get COVID-19 from the vaccines.

The vaccines do not contain the live COVID-19 virus and cannot give you COVID-19. They take advantage of the body's natural immune response to generate protection.

Fact: Like most vaccines, these can produce generally mild and temporary side effects.

Some people who've received the COVID-19 vaccine have reported fevers, fatigue, muscle aches, and soreness around the injection site. These side effects are normal and a sign that the body is building immunity.

(continued from front)

Fact: You should still get vaccinated, even if you already had COVID-19.

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, you should get vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 or not. The immunity gained from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person.

Fact: Even after getting vaccinated, you still need to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and wash your hands often to help stop COVID-19.

While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions, it's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic. That means you should continue covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing your hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others, even after getting vaccinated.

Fact: COVID-19 messenger RNA, or mRNA, vaccines cannot alter your DNA.

The vaccines that use mRNA do not change or interact with your DNA. Instead, the mRNA vaccines teach your cells how to make proteins that help your body build immunity and protect you from the virus.



Visit kp.org/covidvaccine for more information about vaccination eligibility and scheduling, and vaccine availability.