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# Together We Can Do This

## Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

**Yes.** All currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines were shown to be safe and effective in medical studies. These studies involved tens of thousands of volunteers with diverse backgrounds, including American Indian and Alaska Native individuals. The FDA and CDC continue to closely monitor the vaccines to ensure their safety and effectiveness.

## Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

**No.** None of the available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States contains the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine can't make you sick with COVID-19.

The different types of COVID-19 vaccines available do the same thing. They inform your immune system on how to recognize and fight the COVID-19 virus. Side effects from the vaccines, such as fever, are normal. They are a good sign that your body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. [Learn more](#) about how COVID-19 vaccines work.

## Do I need to be vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine if I have had COVID-19 and recovered?

**Yes.** Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, the vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection.

## After I'm fully vaccinated, do I need to continue to wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart from people who don't live with me?

**Yes.** To protect yourself and others, follow these CDC recommendations:

- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of your face without gaps.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

## Additional information can be found at the at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/tribal/index.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html>

## SAFETY IS THE TOP PRIORITY

The FDA and CDC have the highest standards when it comes to ensuring the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. Their process includes the following procedures:

- ✓ Scientists must first test vaccines extensively in medical studies to ensure they are safe and effective.
- ✓ Before the FDA authorizes a vaccine for use among the public, it ensures its safety by independently:
  - Reviewing the data from the medical studies, and
  - Inspecting the manufacturing facilities.
- ✓ Even after a vaccine has been authorized, the FDA and CDC closely monitor vaccine administration to identify even rare side effects or reactions.
- ✓ The FDA and CDC closely review any reports of side effects or reactions and share these facts with the public.

The extremely rare cases of blood clotting following Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine—just a small number of cases out of millions of vaccinations—show that the FDA and CDC's vaccine safety monitoring systems work and catch even the rarest of reactions.

A thorough investigation has confirmed that Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine is safe and effective.

And doctors have been notified and trained to understand the signs to watch for and the proper course of treatment if blood clots occur.

