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# COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence



## **The vaccines are safe**

Every COVID-19 vaccine available in the United States is safe. Tens of millions of people nationwide have safely received COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines continue to undergo extensive safety monitoring.

Serious health effects from vaccines are very rare. It's highly unlikely that COVID-19 vaccines will cause long-term health problems. Also, there is no evidence at all that they will cause infertility or cancer.

Your risk for serious health problems is much lower from the vaccine than your risk if you're unvaccinated and get COVID-19. COVID-19 can leave you with heart and lung damage and other conditions that require long-term treatment. Vaccines are much safer paths to immunity than the disease itself.

## **The vaccines are effective**

All available COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective against severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to COVID-19, including from the Delta variant.

Remember, to get the most protection from the vaccines, you need all the recommended doses:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require two initial doses.
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine requires one initial dose.

If you meet the criteria for having a [compromised immune system](#), you should get a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine at least 4 weeks after your second dose.

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If you've been vaccinated, you may be eligible for a booster shot to keep up your protection. See the [latest guidance on boosters](#).

### **The vaccines are free**

The COVID-19 vaccines are free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of your immigration or health insurance status. Vaccination providers can seek reimbursement for the cost of administering the vaccines from recipients' insurers and from the Health Resources and Services Administration's COVID-19 Uninsured Program for recipients without insurance.

### **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 and Guillain-Barré Syndrome following Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine and heart inflammation following Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's vaccines—a very 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 reactions.

Thorough investigations have confirmed that all three FDA-authorized vaccines are safe and effective. Medical experts stress that the benefits of receiving any of the COVID-19 vaccines in use in the United States far outweigh any potential risks.

The monitoring systems ensure that doctors are notified to watch for signs of serious reactions, no matter how rare, and are aware of proper courses of treatment.

