

COVID-19 VACCINE Q&A



Information to help you make an informed choice about vaccination

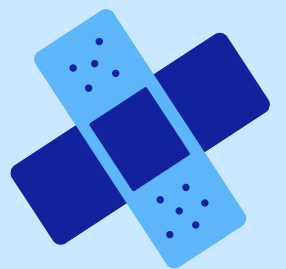
1 HOW DOES THE COVID-19 VACCINE WORK ?

The vaccine gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the COVID-19 virus. After our cells make copies of the protein, they destroy the material from the vaccine. Our bodies recognize that the protein should not be there and build white blood cells that will remember how to fight the virus if we are infected in the future. None of the current vaccines include a "live" virus.



2 DOES THE VACCINE HAVE SIDE EFFECTS?

The most common side effects include pain in the arm where you got the shot, muscle aches, tiredness, headaches, and fever. Experiencing mild symptoms after the vaccine is common and means your body is reacting well and building immunity against the COVID-19 virus. If you are worried about any side effects you experience, you can talk to your doctor.



3 DO I REALLY NEED A COVID-19 VACCINE?

COVID-19 can cause serious illness or even death in healthy people; everyone should take it seriously. There is no cure for COVID-19 yet, but the more people who get vaccinated, the less infection will be in our communities. Prevention is key.



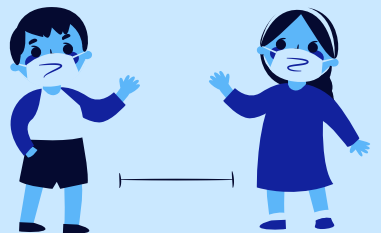
4 DO COVID-19 VACCINES PROTECT AGAINST VARIANTS?

Viruses constantly change and new variants (different strains/types) of a virus are expected over time. The information we have now suggests that COVID-19 vaccines protect against most variants, including the Delta variant. However, some variants might still cause illness with minor symptoms in some people after they are fully vaccinated.



5 WHY SHOULD CHILDREN GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

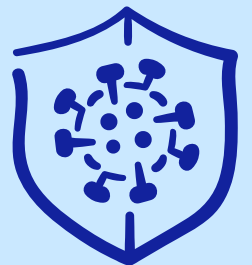
COVID-19 vaccines can help protect children from getting COVID-19. Although fewer children have been sick with COVID-19 than adults, they can get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, can get sick from COVID-19, and can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others. Getting your child vaccinated helps to protect your child and your family. At this time, vaccination is recommended for everyone 5 years and older. Children ages 5 through 11 years will receive a smaller dose of the vaccine.



6 DO I NEED TO GET A BOOSTER SHOT?

COVID-19 vaccines are working well to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, public health experts are starting to see reduced protection, especially among certain populations, against mild and moderate disease. With the holidays approaching and the Delta variant continuing to impact New Jersey, all eligible individuals are encouraged to get a booster shot.

For a list of current eligibility for COVID-19 booster shots, visit:
<https://bit.ly/NJBoosterEligibility>



7 HOW WAS THE VACCINE DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?

COVID-19 is very similar to viruses that had an outbreak in 2003. This means that the experts who were working on the vaccine did not have to start from scratch. Experts from across the globe worked together and shared research more than ever before. Every study, and every phase of every trial, was carefully reviewed and approved by a safety board and the FDA.



8 HOW CAN MY FAMILY GET THE VACCINE?

Everyone 5 or older who lives, works, or studies in New Jersey is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Find a vaccine appointment near you:
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/finder>



For more information, visit these websites or talk to your doctor

CDC COVID-19 Information: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/

New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub: covid19.nj.gov

New Jersey Department of Health YouTube Channel: bit.ly/NJCOVIDVAX



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