COVID-19 vaccine FAQs.

As soon as you have a chance to get a COVID-19 vaccine, do it. A vaccine is key to helping protect you, your family and friends. Right now, vaccine supplies are limited. So it's important to stay informed and get your vaccine as soon as you're eligible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided these answers to questions a lot of people are asking right now.

Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 can cause serious illness or even death. All COVID-19 vaccines now available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19 disease[1]. Even if you still get infected after you get vaccinated, the vaccine may prevent serious illness.

Learn more about getting vaccinated at **cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines**

Are the vaccines safe?

All vaccines in the United States go through a thorough process to be sure they're safe and effective. COVID-19 vaccines have had the most far-reaching safety checks in U.S. history, according to the CDC. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which has rigorous scientific standards, has authorized use of the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used. Millions of Americans have already been safely vaccinated.

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. Keep in mind that it takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. This means that you could catch the virus and get sick if you're around someone who has COVID-19 just before or just after your vaccination.

See the back side to learn more.

Will the shot hurt or make me sick?

Some people might have sore muscles, feel tired, or have a mild fever after getting the vaccine. These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed. For most people, these side effects last no longer than a "few days. If you have any concerns, call your provider.

Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have a medical condition?

It's especially important for people with conditions like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or obesity to get the vaccine as soon as they can. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. The vaccine helps offer protection. You should talk with your health care provider about any concerns you may have.

Do I have to pay for the vaccine?

No. During the national public health emergency period, FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are available at no charge to you, no matter where you get it.

Should I get a 2-shot vaccine or a 1-shot vaccine?

You should get the vaccine that's available to you soonest, whether it comes in 1 dose or 2. Talk with your health care provider if you have additional questions about the vaccine.

Should I get vaccinated if I have already had COVID-19?

Yes. You may have some short-term natural protection (known as immunity) after recovering from COVID-19, but we don't know how long this protection will last. If you have had COVID-19, ask your provider, or clinic when you should be vaccinated.

Will I still have to wear a mask and avoid getting close to others?

Until you are fully vaccinated, you should still cover your mouth and nose with a mask, wash your hands often, avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet away from others. This will help protect those around you who have not been vaccinated yet.

[1]Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine. (2021, January 5). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html