



ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VACCINE



5 questions (and answers) you need to be prepared for

1 How safe can a vaccine this hurried be?

- The vaccine has gone through the most intense monitoring in US history.
- No safety concerns have been identified during early monitoring of the vaccine.
- The FDA has authorized all recommended vaccines for their safety.
- New monitoring systems have been established specifically for this vaccine.

2 Can I develop natural immunity instead?

- We cannot reliably predict who will have mild or severe side effects from COVID-19.
- It is unknown how long natural protection lasts after acquiring the virus.
- Vaccines have been determined to be safe and effective.
- Getting vaccinated allows you to participate in activities that require a vaccination status, like traveling.

3 What are common side effects?

- Pain, redness, and swelling on the arm are the immediate side effects of the vaccine.
- Tiredness, muscle pain, chills, and nausea can be felt throughout the rest of the body.
- Side effects may be more intense after the second dose of the vaccine.
- These side effects should only last a few days, and are normal signs that the body is building protection.

4 Why are multiple doses needed?

- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines both require two doses, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires one.
- The first shot primes the immune system, getting it ready to recognize the virus, while the second dose strengthens the immune response against it.
- Vaccine doses are not interchangeable between each other.

5 Which vaccine should I get?

- No vaccine is recommended over another.
- Patients should get the first vaccine that is available to them, regardless of the brand.
- Patients should always be reminded of the benefits of the vaccine when deciding when to schedule their appointment.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/answering-questions.html>