



## MONUMENT HEALTH



# COVID-19 Vaccine: Frequently Asked Questions\*

### ***Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?***

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe. Over 350 million doses of the vaccine have been administered from December of 2020 to date. On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine full approval.

### ***Is the COVID-19 vaccine effective?***

There is growing data that shows the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines mirror results in clinical trial studies and reduce the risk of COVID-19 by 90 percent or more for people who have been fully vaccinated. The vaccination is also proving to reduce the spread of illness for those vaccinated.

### ***Are mRNA vaccines effective against the Delta variant?***

Although it is possible to contract COVID after vaccination because no vaccine is 100 percent effective, emerging data continues to support vaccine effectiveness is high in preventing death and hospitalization. This includes the original COVID strain known as the Alpha strain in addition to the Beta, Gamma and Delta variants.

### ***What does “fully vaccinated” mean?***

FDA Effectiveness Studies show that two doses of the mRNA vaccine are better than one at providing protection against COVID-19, but “fully vaccinated” varies by product. For the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccine, an individual must receive 2-shots, three weeks apart. The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) shot requires only one dose. Two weeks after your final shot, you are considered to have immunity and to be fully vaccinated.

### ***What to expect?***

The COVID vaccine is administered in the muscle of your arm. After you receive your vaccine, you will be asked to wait for 15-30 minutes to ensure you have no major side effects.

### **Who should not get vaccinated?**

If you have had a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to any of the ingredients included in the COVID vaccine, you should not get vaccinated. Talk to your primary care provider with concerns or questions about potential allergies.

### **Who is eligible to receive a COVID vaccine?**

The CDC has recommended that anyone 12-years and older get the COVID-19 vaccine. For individuals who are immunocompromised, a third dose, also known as a booster shot, is recommended. Talk to your primary care provider to determine if you should receive a third shot.

### **What are common side effects?**

Pain, redness, and soreness in the arm where you got the shot are common. You may also feel tired, achy, experience a fever, a headache, chills, or nausea.

In rare cases, anaphylaxis, myocarditis and pericarditis have been reported. After receiving the J&J vaccine, there have been reports of a rare risk of blood clots with low platelets for women between the ages of 17 and 49-years-old (7 in every 1 million vaccinated).

To learn more, about these rare side effects, visit [CDC.com](https://www.cdc.gov) or talk to your primary care provider.

### **Should I vaccinate my child/teen?**

Although COVID-19 virus is known to have lesser severe symptoms in youth than high-risk adults, the Delta variant is highly contagious. Children can still become infected from COVID, get sick, and infect others. The COVID vaccine is an effective way to stop the pandemic.

### **Is the COVID vaccine safe for my child/teen?**

The COVID vaccine is safe and effective according to the CDC after ongoing rigorous quality, safety, and effectiveness standards conducted by the FDA.

The CDC has recorded 10.7 million U.S. children under the age of 18 who have received one dose of the COVID vaccine. Of those, 8 million are fully vaccinated as of August 11, 2021.\*\*

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In rare instances, and more commonly after receiving the second dose of the mRNA COVID vaccine, myocarditis or pericarditis have been reported in youth. Be alert for shortness of breath, chest pain, or a fluttering heart up to one-week after receiving the vaccine.

Benefits of receiving the vaccine, outweigh the risks of becoming infected by the COVID-19 virus.

### **What if I have children under the age of 12 who cannot be vaccinated?**

The CDC is recommending children under the age of 12 wear masks in public spaces.

\*All answers to FAQs have been sourced from the Centers for Disease Control at [www.CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

\*\*There are 72.8 M children under age 18 in the US, 22% of the population. Children under age 12 are not yet eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, representing 14.5% of the US population (Source: American Assoc of Pediatrics at [www.aap.org](https://www.aap.org)).