

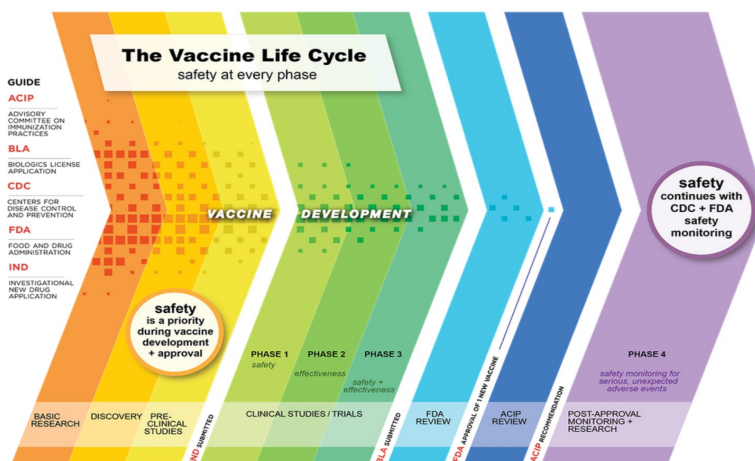
# COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

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## How was the vaccine produced so quickly?

All the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same standards as other vaccines. The vaccines were quickly produced due to worldwide interest that led to funding and dedicated staff. The SARS-CoV-2 genome was quickly sequenced during the first few months of the pandemic, which allowed for already-established vaccine production technology to be utilized to create potential vaccines. The most promising vaccines that made it to Phase III of clinical trials were mass manufactured to ensure they would be ready to distribute if safety and efficacy standards were met. Distribution and infrastructure plans for the vaccine have been underway since the beginning of the pandemic.

The large number of participants in the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Phase III clinical trials allowed for safety and efficacy data to be collected quickly on a diverse group of patients. This data was continuously being provided to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) throughout the study period. Lastly, some medications and vaccines can wait up to 12 months after study completion to be reviewed. Due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, these studies were reviewed promptly by the FDA after the completion of all three mandatory clinical phases and waiting periods. The studies met safety and efficacy standards, resulting in an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA.



## How does a mRNA vaccine work?

The COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work by injecting recipients with the messenger RNA of the SARS-CoV-2's spike protein. Once this mRNA enters, your body will create the protein, which will trigger an immune response and ultimately produce antibodies to fight this specific protein. If you become infected with the actual virus, your body will know how to fight it.

It can take up to two weeks after the second dose of the vaccine for your immune response to reach maximum protection. You could become infected during this time.

## Symptoms of the vaccine

- Mild Fever
- Headache
- Sore Arm
- Fatigue

These symptoms typically do not last longer than 24-48 hours!

Getting a mRNA vaccine WILL NOT make you test positive for the virus and WILL NOT give you COVID-19 symptoms. If you develop COVID-19 symptoms you should get tested.

## HELP US SMASH COVID-19!

Socially distance

Mask up

Avoid crowds

Stay home if you are sick

Hand hygiene

## Should I be concerned about the side effects?

The most common side effects from the vaccine do not last longer than 48 hours. Some individuals have had anaphylaxis after receiving the vaccine, but this is rare; it occurred in 21 out of the first 1.8 million vaccine recipients (0.0011%). Vaccination sites have epi pens in case of emergency and all recipients must stay and be monitored for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine (30 minutes for those with history of anaphylaxis). No significant long-term side effects have been reported in clinical trial participants. Researchers must wait 60 days past the date on which 50% of the study participants have received the final dose of a vaccine to apply for a FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). This rule is established based on the fact that past vaccines rarely have side effects past six weeks after administration.



**The vaccine will cause me to test positive on a viral test. FALSE**

**The vaccine will cause me to have COVID-19 symptoms. FALSE**

**I should not get the vaccine if I already had the virus. FALSE**

**The vaccine will inject me with a microchip. FALSE**

### Why should I get the vaccine?

- Healthcare personnel are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19
- Vaccinating healthcare personnel protects healthcare capacity
- Vaccinating healthcare personnel helps prevent patients from getting COVID-19
- Benefits of vaccination believed to outweigh possible risks
- Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

**Vaccinating long-term care staff and residents WILL save lives!**

# 380,000+

**People have died in the U.S. from COVID-19**

Over **22 million Americans** and 91 million world-wide have contracted COVID-19.. Over **1,960,000** people globally have died.

COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. If you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, your patients and others around you.

For additional information on COVID-19:

[coronavirus.in.gov](https://coronavirus.in.gov)

