

COVID-19 Vaccines: Common Concerns

As more Californians get vaccinated and variants circulate, we understand you may have questions and concerns about the safety, effectiveness and side effects of the vaccine. We have put together a list of common questions from the community below. The answers have been vetted by medical experts. Please feel free to share this document with your family, friends, neighbors and members of your community. Together, we can stop COVID-19 and keep California safe!

VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND SAFETY

Will the vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No, the vaccine does not give you COVID-19. None of the vaccines contain the live virus.

The vaccine was developed too fast. I do not trust that it's safe.

The vaccines went through 3 phases of clinical trials, which were all overseen by the FDA and CDC. mRNA vaccines have also been around for over 10 years, so the science is not new.

Is it safe for Black and Latino communities to get the vaccine?

The three vaccines were tested on diverse populations, and include Black and Latino volunteers. The vaccine is effective and safe in those groups. A big effort was made to assure that Black and Latino people would not be victims of medical neglect and medical racism.

Will getting the vaccine affect my immigration status or immigration application?

There is equal access to vaccines for undocumented immigrants. Receiving the vaccine will not affect your immigration status.

Can the vaccines cause autism or other serious health problems?

No. Like other approved vaccines, scientists believe the COVID-19 vaccine does not cause disorders like autism or other health problems.

I'm pregnant. Is it safe for me to take the vaccine?

Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are safe during pregnancy and breastfeeding. You might want to talk to your healthcare provider to help you decide when to get vaccinated.

Will the vaccine affect my or my partner's ability to have a baby?

No. There is no evidence that the vaccine interferes with pregnancy. In fact, women who were in the clinical trials were able to get pregnant after.

What is the most common variant in the United States right now?

The Delta variant is the cause of more than 90% of the COVID-19 cases in the United States. Children and adults under 50 are being hospitalized more often.

What are the best ways to protect myself from being infected by COVID-19?

- Get vaccinated
- wear a mask
- keep doors and windows open indoors for ventilation
- maintain social distancing
- wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds

What are common side effects of vaccines?

- Soreness and/or swelling on site of injection
- mild fever
- chills
- body ache
- muscle ache
- nausea

Recommendations about boosters is changing.

Please visit the [CDC website on boosters](https://www.cdc.gov) to learn more and stay up to date.

VACCINE PLANNING

Does the vaccine cost money?

No. COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone.

When will children get the vaccine?

Currently, only 12 to 18 year-olds can get the vaccine. A vaccine for kids 12 and under is in clinical trials and could be available later in the fall.

What is the difference between each brand of vaccine, which one is better?

All three COVID-19 vaccines offer strong protection. Chances of infection and transmission are much lower when you receive any of the vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires one dose.

I just received my first dose. How do I ensure I get my second dose?

When you get your first dose, you will receive a vaccine record card and from there you should be able to schedule your second appointment by calling 833-540-0473, scheduling it online or with your doctor.

How do I sign up to get a vaccine?

Visit <https://vaccinatela.info/> and click on "Make an Appointment." Follow the instructions to schedule your vaccine appointment.

VACCINE SAFETY FOR KIDS

Are COVID-19 vaccines for children approved by the FDA?

Only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is fully approved by the FDA for kids aged 16 and older. Currently, the vaccine is in clinical trials for children aged 12 and younger.

Kids are the least likely to be affected by COVID-19. Why should I vaccinate my child?

We are seeing more infections and hospital admissions among children and younger adults, especially with the Delta variant. Vaccination is the best way to protect them.

Will I get COVID-19 even after being fully vaccinated?

You will be at lower risk of infection after getting your vaccine. However, if you do get infected, you will most likely have mild or no symptoms at all. More importantly, you will be protected from death and hospital admission.

I have recovered from COVID and have natural immunity. Why should I get the vaccine?

Natural immunity differs from one person and another. Studies have shown that vaccination after recovery from COVID can boost your natural immunity. Recent information is also showing that even if you had COVID last year, you may not be protected from the Delta variant.

COVID-19 Treatment Cost

Will my insurance cover the cost of COVID-19 treatment?

It is not guaranteed that COVID-19 treatment expenses will be covered by health insurance plans, and these expenses could end up being costly for you and your family.