

VACCINATION — FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

It's easy and has many benefits! Getting vaccinated means you are less likely to get and spread the virus that causes COVID-19. If you do catch the virus, you are less likely to be seriously ill or hospitalized. Getting vaccinated yourself protects people around you, including children, who are not eligible for vaccination.

Is it safe to get the vaccine?

Yes, the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. More than 160 million people, including more than 600,000 Alaskans have received the vaccine. There have been very few allergic reactions and no deaths. The FDA and CDC continue to carefully monitor each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines for safety concerns.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The most common side effects people reported are soreness at the injection site, fever, fatigue and muscle aches. These typically resolve after about 48 hours, are signs your body is learning to fight COVID-19, and can be treated with ibuprofen or Tylenol.

What are the risks of a serious allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine?

The risk of a serious allergic reaction is very low, but YKHC health providers will monitor individuals for 20 minutes following vaccination, to ensure timely care is provided under the extremely rare circumstance of an allergic reaction.

How effective is the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective in keeping people from catching COVID-19. Some people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will still get sick because no vaccine is 100% effective. However, fully vaccinated people are much less likely to be hospitalized or die than people with similar risk factors who are not vaccinated.

Does the vaccine protect me against variants of COVID-19, like the delta variant?

Yes, current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines offer protection against variants currently spreading in the

United States. To receive the most protection, people should receive all recommended doses of the vaccine.

When I am considered fully vaccinated?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control states that people are considered fully protected two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Will I still have to wear a mask when I am fully vaccinated?

Fully vaccinated people without symptoms of COVID-19 can resume most activities without wearing a mask, except where required by federal, state, local and tribal regulations (including business, school and workplace guidance.) Masks are also required in airplanes, taxis, busses and in transportation hubs, such as airports. Vaccinated people may still choose to wear a mask in any circumstance to protect themselves and others.

Will I have to quarantine or get tested after I am fully vaccinated?

People who are fully vaccinated and do not have any symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after travel or exposure to someone with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. However, vaccinated people who have symptoms of COVID-19 should wear a mask and get tested as soon as possible.

Can people still spread COVID-19 after they have been vaccinated?

Fully vaccinated people are significantly less likely to spread the virus that causes COVID-19. However, any person, regardless of vaccination status, who has symptoms of COVID-19 should wear a mask and get tested for COVID-19.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No, it is not possible to catch COVID-19 from the vaccine. There is no live virus in COVID-19 vaccines.

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FAQ continues...



FAQ continued...

Should I get the vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have recommended that pregnant and breastfeeding mothers be given the vaccine if desired. There have been no reported adverse effects in pregnancies in women after they received the vaccine.

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

Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19.

Can children get the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is currently approved for use in people ages 12 and older. Because kids under age 12 cannot be vaccinated, they need everyone who can get vaccinated to do so. This will mean there is less virus in the community, making it safer for our children.

Where can I learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Your YKHC healthcare provider is happy to speak with you about the vaccine. They can answer any questions you have and address your personal health situation.

YKHC recommends using trusted sources of information to gather more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and YKHC.

Resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

Resource: <https://www.ykhc.org/covid-19/vaccine/>