



COVID-19

Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines

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What You Need to Know

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- CDC recommends you [get a COVID-19 vaccine](#) as soon as possible.
- If you are fully vaccinated, you can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic. Learn more about what you can do [when you have been fully vaccinated](#).

Millions of People Have Safely Received a COVID-19 Vaccine

Over 403 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in the United States from December 14, 2020, through October 12, 2021.

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support approval or authorization of a vaccine.

Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines since they were authorized for emergency use by FDA. These vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both [established and new safety monitoring systems](#)  [\[PDF - 83 KB\]](#) to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Results Are Reassuring

Results from vaccine safety monitoring efforts are reassuring. Some people have no side effects. Others have reported common [side effects after COVID-19 vaccination](#), like

- swelling, redness, and pain at injection site
- fever
- headache
- tiredness
- muscle pain
- chills
- nausea

Serious Safety Problems Are Rare

SERIOUS SAFETY PROBLEMS ARE RARE

To date, the systems in place to monitor the safety of these vaccines have found only two serious types of health problems after vaccination, both of which are rare. These are anaphylaxis and thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) after vaccination with J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

Anaphylaxis

A small number of people have had a [severe allergic reaction](#) (called “anaphylaxis”) after vaccination, but this is **rare**. Anaphylaxis can occur after any vaccination. If this occurs, vaccination providers have medicines available to effectively and immediately treat the reaction.

After you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you will be asked to stay for 15–30 minutes so you can be observed in case you have a severe allergic reaction and need immediate treatment.

Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) after Vaccination with J&J/Janssen COVID–19 Vaccination

After receiving the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, there is risk for a rare but serious adverse event—blood clots with low platelets (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS). Women younger than 50 years old should especially be aware of their increased risk for this rare adverse event. There are other COVID-19 vaccines available for which this risk has not been seen.

This adverse event is rare, occurring at a rate of about 7 per 1 million vaccinated women between 18 and 49 years old. For women 50 years and older and men of all ages, this adverse event is even more rare.

Cases of myocarditis and pericarditis in adolescents and young adults have been reported more often after getting the second dose than after the first dose of one of the two mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna. **These reports are rare and the known and potential benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks, including the [possible risk of myocarditis or pericarditis](#).**

Long–Term Side Effects Are Unlikely

Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccine monitoring has historically shown that side effects generally happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine dose. For this reason, the FDA required each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines to be studied for at least two months (eight weeks) after the final dose. Millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines, and no long-term side effects have been detected.

CDC continues to closely monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. If scientists find a connection between a safety issue and a vaccine, FDA and the vaccine manufacturer will work toward an appropriate solution to address the specific safety concern (for example, a problem with a specific lot, a manufacturing issue, or the vaccine itself).

Have you experienced a side effect following COVID-19 vaccination?

You can [report it to VAERS](#) [↗](#).

More Information

[ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Technical Sub-Group \(VaST\)](#)

[VaST Subgroup Technical Report](#)

