CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

COVID-19

Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines

Updated Nov. 3, 2023

What You Need to Know

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of millions of people in the United States received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other federal agencies continue to monitor the safety of the updated COVID-19 vaccines and will share information with the public as it becomes available.
- CDC recommends everyone ages 6 months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against serious illness.

Everyone 6 months and older should receive a COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines has been rigorously monitored and evaluated since their emergency use authorization (EUA) in December 2020. The updated mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for 2023-2024 are manufactured using a similar process to the previous vaccines.

Learn more about EUAs in this video. ↗

As with all vaccines authorized or approved for use in the U.S., CDC, FDA and other federal agencies will continue to closely monitor the safety of the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines using multiple vaccine safety monitoring systems and will share information with the public as it becomes available.

Common Side Effects

Some people have side effects after COVID-19 vaccination, while others might have no side effects. Side effects tend to be mild, such as soreness at the injection site and fever, and should go away within a few days. Learn more about common side effects after COVID-19 vaccination.

Adverse Events (Health Problems) Are Rare

In rare cases, people have experienced more significant adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination. Any health problem that happens after vaccination is considered an adverse event. An adverse event can be caused by the vaccine or can be caused by a coincidental event not related to the vaccine, such as an unrelated fever, that happened following vaccination.

Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccination Outweigh the Risks

COVID-19 vaccination continues to be the best way to protect against serious illness. The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other federal agencies continue to monitor the safety of the updated COVID-19 vaccines and will share information with the public as it becomes available.

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

Please report it to VAERS ⬀ . In addition, enrolling yourself or your dependent in V-safe allows you to easily report to CDC how you are feeling after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

More Information

ACIP COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Technical (VaST) Work Group Reports

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Publications

Last Updated Nov. 3, 2023