

CONVERSATION GUIDES: COVID-19 VACCINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



GET A FREE COVID-19 VACCINE



Getting a COVID-19 vaccine means taking care of yourself so that you, your family, and others are protected from getting severely ill. Getting vaccinated is the gateway to getting back to who and what we love.

- **Eligibility**
 - The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and free for [anyone who is eligible](#).
 - Youth between the ages of 12 – 17 must be accompanied by a parent **OR** have a [consent form](#) signed by a parent.
 - Insurance is not required.
- **At The Site**
 - Bring any identification with their name (College or student ID, passport, consular ID, driver's license, social security card).
 - If insured, bring the insurance card.
 - Mention to the vaccination provider before getting the vaccine:
 - have any allergies
 - have a fever
 - have a bleeding disorder or are on a blood thinner
 - are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
 - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
 - are breastfeeding
 - have received another COVID-19 vaccine
 - have ever fainted in association with an injection
 - Community health personnel will be available on site to answer any questions around reactions, care, etc.
- **VAX Locations** - Along with many local pharmacies, grocery stores, and other community locations, [free vaccines are available through Fulton County](#). Mobile and pop-up locations are updated daily. [Find a Vax Site near you today.](#)

- **FREE Lyft Rides to Vaccine Appointments - From now until June 30, 2022** The Vaccine Access Program is a partnership between Lyft and United Way 2-1-1 to help ensure that transportation gaps do not prevent Georgians from being able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone in need of vaccine transportation can contact United Way 2-1-1 of Greater Atlanta to receive a free ride from Lyft! If your organization is having a vaccine event, or you know of someone in need of a Lyft, please let them know to contact United Way 2-1-1 to schedule a free ride to vaccine appointments. How to reach United Way 2-1-1:
 - In the Metropolitan Atlanta area, dial 2-1-1.
 - Outside the Metropolitan Atlanta area, dial 404-614-1000, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, to speak to a Community Connection Specialist and schedule a vaccine ride through Lyft.

- **Homebound Residents** - Georgia residents who are currently homebound due to an ongoing physical or mental disability and are unable to travel to a COVID-19 vaccination site can request to receive the vaccination at their home by phone or email. To leave a voicemail request, please call 888-572-0112 and someone will return the call to obtain additional information. To request services by email please email HVS@dph.ga.gov with the following information for the person who requires at-home vaccination:
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Address
 - City
 - County
 - Contact phone number
 - The contact phone number will be used to obtain additional information and schedule the vaccination.

- **What To Know After Vaccination**
 - **KEEP YOUR VACCINATION CARD** When you get your first dose (if Pfizer or Moderna), you will get a vaccination card to show you when to return for your second dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine. Remember to bring your card when you return.



Why should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

Getting immunized against COVID-19 will keep most people from getting sick and help prevent spreading the virus to others. Even in a rare case where one does catch the virus, the vaccine will likely prevent you from becoming seriously ill. Clinical trials have shown the COVID-19 vaccine to be 90% effective in real-world conditions. With the **majority of the population vaccinated, there will be enough protection against the spread of COVID-19** in communities and herd immunity will be achieved. Getting vaccinated will allow you to engage in in-person activities of human connection missed most such as visiting and seeing family and friends, attending religious services, children back in school full-time, and most of all you are saving others lives.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Who is eligible for the vaccine in Georgia?

- The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and free for [anyone who is eligible](#).
- Youth between the ages of 12 – 17 must be accompanied by a parent **OR** have a [consent form](#) signed by a parent.
- Insurance is not required.

2. How much does it cost to get vaccinated?

Getting vaccinated for COVID-19 is [free of charge in Fulton County](#). Costs of the vaccine will be covered by either insurance providers or through a system put in place by the U.S. government for people who do not have insurance.

3. If I have a history of allergic reactions, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

If your history of allergic reactions is not related to vaccinations or injectable medications you can still get a COVID-19 vaccine. After getting the vaccine, you should wait at the vaccination site up to 30 minutes to be monitored.

If you have had immediate allergic reactions from other vaccines or injectable medication, it is advised to ask your doctor if you should get a COVID-19 vaccine.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report - Week of 4/2](#)

If you have had an immediate reaction to any ingredient in a COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC recommends you do not take that vaccine in particular and look into getting a different one.

If you happen to have an immediate or severe reaction after getting the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, do not get the second dose. You may still be able to get a different vaccine for your second dose.

SAFETY

1. How do I know the vaccine is safe?

Before the approval and authorization of a vaccine it must go through a rigorous process of evaluation and review to ensure the safety and effectiveness by [the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#). If the vaccine shows signs of not being safe or effective, it is not approved or used.

The FDA and CDC continuously monitor the COVID-19 vaccine to ensure its safety. Experts have been studying and working with mRNA vaccines for decades, way before diseases such as flu, Zika and rabies. More than 336 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been given to people, with [tens of thousands](#) of people having already participated in clinical trials.

[Learn how vaccines like COVID-19 vaccines are developed](#)

2. How was the COVID-19 vaccine developed so quickly?

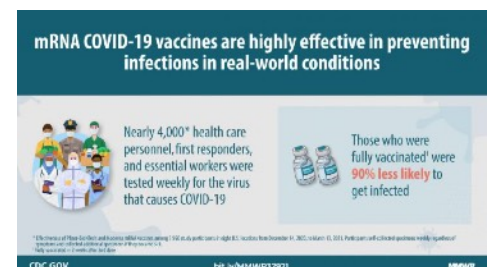
mRNA Tech has been in development for decades. Dr. Kizmekia Corbett, a black female, has been working on it for over 6 years at the NIH. Many countries and pharmaceutical companies invested significant resources into quickly developing a vaccine for COVID-19 because of the world-wide impact of the pandemic. The emergency situation warranted an emergency response but that does not mean that companies bypassed safety protocols or didn't perform adequate testing.

- **To receive emergency use authorization, the biopharmaceutical manufacturer must have followed at least half of the study participants for at least two months after completing the vaccination series**, and the vaccine must be proven safe and effective in that population.

In addition to the safety review by the FDA, the **Advisory Committee on Immunization convened a panel of vaccine safety experts (which included trusted Black Doctors like The President of Meharry Medical School, Dr. James Hildreth)** to independently evaluate the safety data from the clinical trial. The safety of COVID-19 vaccine will continue to be closely monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the FDA.

3. Is it possible to get COVID-19 from getting the vaccine?

No, the COVID-19 vaccines being used will not and cannot infect anyone with the COVID-19 virus. Recent studies show COVID-19 vaccines are 90% effective against preventing illness from COVID-19 in real-world conditions. [The vaccines do not have any form of live SARS-CoV-2, the COVID-19 causing virus](#). The vaccines serve the purpose of protecting and preventing individuals from potentially



2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report - Week of 4/2](#)

getting infected. Being vaccinated means your body will be creating an antibody, in efforts to protect someone against COVID-19 if they come into contact with the virus.

4. Did the clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccines include people like me?

The COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States included the largest clinical trials of vaccines ever. These trials included people of all different backgrounds, races and ethnicities. Blacks represented 10% of both the Pfizer and Moderna clinical trial participants, and 14% of J&J participants. Participants with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems such as allergies, obesity, heart disease, and cancer, represented over 40% of trial participants.

Medical experts and doctors strive to ensure the vaccine is safe and effective for as many people as they possibly can. Due to differences in individuals, people may respond differently to vaccines based on various factors such as age, gender, health conditions and other factors therefore having a diverse representation of varied groups in the clinical trials.

5. Can COVID-19 vaccines affect the heart?

Myocarditis is inflammation of the muscle of the heart, and pericarditis is inflammation of the tissue that forms a sac around the heart. Millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been given, and there have only been 1,000 cases of heart inflammation after vaccination against COVID-19 with one of the mRNA vaccines, Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna - and the majority of these cases have been mild. Doing the math, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that [for every million doses given](#), there have been 67 cases of heart inflammation in boys 12 to 17 (nine in girls of that age group), 56 in those aged 18 to 24 (six in girls), and 20 in males 25 to 29 (three in girls). That means the risk is quite low. Experts are particularly worried about the new COVID-19 variants, which seem to spread more quickly and cause more severe disease. The available vaccines do appear to protect against these variants, and the vast majority of current hospitalizations and deaths are in people who are unvaccinated.

- COVID-19 can affect the heart, too — not only as part of [MIS-C, a multisystem inflammatory complication of COVID-19 seen in children](#), but also just from the infection itself. COVID-19 can cause heart damage, including myocarditis.

VACCINE INGREDIENTS

1. What are the vaccines made of?

All three vaccines currently available have fact sheets for recipients and caregivers that list the ingredients of each vaccine. Those factsheets can be found at:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers \(fda.gov\)](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers \(fda.gov\)](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers \(fda.gov\)](#)

2. Do the vaccines contain the live virus?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines **do not contain the live virus**, the mRNA vaccines teach the body's immune system how to develop a protein that will let the body know how to protect itself from COVID-19.

3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [mRNA Vaccines](#)

3. Do any of the vaccines contain mRNA? If so, what is mRNA and how do vaccines protect me?

Currently, there are two types of vaccines available for COVID-19, messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines that include the Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna vaccines, and a viral vector vaccine, made by Johnson & Johnson:

mRNA Vaccines - [mRNA vaccines](#) have been developed and implemented for earlier coronaviruses like SARS and MERS. Instead of putting weakened or activated germs in the body like traditional vaccines, the mRNA vaccine teaches cells how to make a protective protein. Should the real virus enter the body, that new protein triggers an immune response that produces antibodies and prevents us from getting sick.

Viral Vector Vaccines - [Viral vector vaccines](#) piggyback the instructions to fight the coronavirus onto a separate and different virus, called an adenovirus. The virus is not alive and therefore cannot infect the individual receiving the vaccination. Viral vector vaccines have already been used to fight a number of diseases, including Zika, influenza viruses, HIV, malaria and Ebola.

Both Vaccines Had a Blueprint - The existing “blueprints” from previous vaccines enabled vaccine manufacturers to develop the COVID-19 vaccine more quickly. Dr. Toro notes that this was one of several reasons they were able to develop these vaccines in “10 months versus 10 to 15 years.”

How it works:

The immune system is activated once we get a vaccine. The vaccine aids in the process of learning how to defend itself if it comes in contact with COVID-19, with the advantage of not having a real infection.

The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain a live virus.



STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

<p>Through a shot injection to the arm, the vaccine enters the system and either the mRNA or vector instructions permeate the immune cells.</p> <p>Note: Neither vaccine becomes part of our DNA because their makeup is different and can't change genetic code.</p>	<p>Prompted by either the mRNA or the vector, the immune cells create the spike protein.</p> <p>Once the spike protein is made, the body gets rid of the original mRNA instructions and displays the newly created protein piece on the cell's surface</p>	<p>Since immune systems don't recognize this new protein, they go through the process of building an immune response and making antibodies, just like they would for a natural COVID-19 infection.</p>	<p>Now bodies have learned to protect themselves against COVID-19 and we have an immune response ready to prevent getting infected with the real virus.</p>
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4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report - Week of 4/2](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS

1. How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine?

All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the US are effective at preventing COVID-19 in clinical trials, and research provides growing evidence that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines offer similar protection (90%) in real-world conditions. Some people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will still get sick because no vaccine is 100% effective. Experts continue to monitor and evaluate how often this occurs, how severe their illness is, and how likely a vaccinated person is to spread COVID-19 to others.

- **Pfizer vaccine:** showed a 95% efficacy rate 14 days after the second dose. The vaccine was 94% effective in adults >65 years old. Being the only vaccine being administered to children between the age of 12-15, it showed a 100% efficacy rate.
- **Moderna vaccine:** showed a 94% efficacy rate 14 days after the second dose. These results were consistent across gender, age, and ethnicity.
- **Johnson & Johnson:** showed 90% efficacy. The vaccine also offered “complete protection” against COVID-related hospitalization and death at day 28.

2. How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will I need?

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two doses. The Pfizer vaccine doses are administered 3 weeks (21 days) apart, and the Moderna vaccine doses are given 4 weeks (28 days) apart. The first dose offers partial protection and the second acts as a booster. Both doses are needed to get the most protection the vaccines have to offer against COVID-19.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single dose vaccine. All three COVID vaccines currently available are administered intramuscularly (into the muscle, just like a flu shot).

3. What if I cannot get my second dose of COVID vaccine within the recommended time frame?

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the second dose of the vaccine can be administered up to 42 days, or six weeks, after the initial inoculation.

4. How long does protection from a COVID-19 vaccine last?

We do not yet know how long protection lasts for those who are vaccinated, but that it has been effective even against most variants. What we do know is that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.

5. If I had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to be vaccinated?

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

6. What are the side effects of COVID-19 vaccine?

Commonly known side-effects of the COVID-19 vaccine may include pain, swelling, and tenderness on the arm where you get the shot. It is also possible to feel tired, muscle pain, chills, fever, nausea, and headaches. The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines are short term mild or moderate. These side effects last anywhere from one to two days.

These symptoms are in line with side effects some people experience from some other vaccines, including the flu shot and the vaccine to prevent shingles. Vaccines work to fight disease by producing an immune response within the body, and sometimes that means flu-like symptoms occur as your body responds to the vaccine. It is normal and expected.

7. Do I still need to wear a mask once I'm fully vaccinated?

If you're fully vaccinated, you can safely resume many activities without having to wear a mask or stay six feet away from others. Since regulations on mask-wearing differ from place to place, you should check to see what your local governments, businesses, and workplaces currently require.

If you travel, you should still take steps to protect yourself and others. You must still wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

CDC is continuing to update guidelines as more information becomes available, so please visit their website for the latest recommendations.

8. Will the vaccine protect me against new strains of COVID-19?

The Delta (B.1.617.2) variant is currently the most common COVID-19 variant infecting people in the U.S. This variant has shown to be more easily spread compared to other variants. The COVID-19 vaccines still provide protection against severe illness from COVID-19.

- Early research from the U.K. suggests that, after full vaccination, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is 88% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 virus. The vaccine is also 96% effective at preventing severe disease with the COVID-19 virus caused by the delta variant.
- Early research from Canada suggests that, after one dose, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is 72% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 virus caused by the delta variant. One dose of the vaccine is also 96% effective at preventing severe disease with the COVID-19 virus caused by the delta variant.
- The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine is 85% effective at preventing severe disease with the COVID-19 virus caused by the delta variant, according to data released by Johnson & Johnson.
- Currently, the CDC and the FDA state that people in the U.S. who have been fully vaccinated do not need a vaccine booster. This is due to fully vaccinated people being protected from severe disease and death with the COVID-19 virus, including from COVID-19 variants.
 - Most COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are among people who are unvaccinated.

However, COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers continue to research and test booster doses. If the variants continue to mutate more and the vaccines potentially become ineffective, the mRNA vaccines can be reconstructed in 6-8 weeks to work against the strains.

CHILDREN 12 AND OLDER



1. Why should my child get vaccinated?

Experts are finding out more and more about COVID-19. In the beginning of the pandemic the data showed that children were less likely to get COVID-19. As the pandemic has progressed, the findings show that **children can get severely ill from COVID-19**. There has been an increase in COVID-19 related hospitalizations. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has shown to be even more effective within children between the ages of 12 and 15 in comparison to adults, with 100% effectiveness. Where the clinical trials showed 95% effectiveness for adults. The best way to protect your child is to get them vaccinated and reduce the spread of the virus within family, schools, and communities.

2. Which vaccine will my child get?

At this moment in time, the Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine available for children 12 and older. It is important to be sure when making an appointment for children, to select a day which the Pfizer vaccine will be given at your preferred location.

3. How did the FDA determine the safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children 12 to 15?

A clinical trial specifically for children aged 12 through 15 was conducted. The FDA reviews this trial which had over 2,200 US children participate. Half of the participants were given the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the half received a harmless/fake shot (placebo). After a week from when the second doses were given, the research showed there were no cases of COVID-19 infections among the 1,005 children who received the vaccine. In the placebo group, 16 out of 978 children had COVID-19. Prior to the trial, none of the children had COVID-19. These results showed that the vaccine is 100% effective in this age group.

4. Is the COVID-19 vaccine dose the same for children as it is for adults?

Yes. The dose of the COVID-19 vaccine given to children is the same for older children and adults.

5. If my child just had a different routine vaccination, can they still get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine can be taken even if your child has just taken other routine vaccinations. The COVID-19 vaccine can also be taken at the same time or on the same day as other vaccinations.

6. Can I give my child acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) before their vaccination to prevent any side effects?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that you do not give your child pain-relieving medication as it can possibly reduce how the body's immune system responds to the vaccine. Though, if your child does develop a fever or pain after receiving the vaccine, it is then fine to give them acetaminophen or ibuprofen at the appropriate dose.

7. What side effects may my child experience?

The common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine for children are just like with adults. These side effects include pain at injection sites, tiredness, headaches, muscle and joint pain, and fever. These side effects are usually mild and last anywhere from 1 to 2 days.

8. Should my child's pediatrician be consulted before they get vaccinated?

Contact your pediatrician if you have any specific health concerns, however if your child does not have any specific health concerns, you can schedule your child's COVID-19 vaccine appointment without speaking to their pediatrician.

9. Do parents/guardians need to give consent?

Yes. A parent or guardian will need to give consent at the time of vaccination, if the parent or guardian will not be present, they must provide a consent form signed by parent or guardian.

EXPECTANT MOMS & WOMEN'S HEALTH



1. Can menstruating women get the COVID-19 vaccinations and can it cause changes in menstruation and menopause?

Yes. women who are menstruating can take the COVID-19 as there are no additional risks with menstruation.

There are many things that can affect menstruation such as sleep, stress, diet, infections, and other diseases. There is no evidence that the vaccines have a direct impact on menstrual irregularities or menopause.

2. Can women who are on contraception and women planning to get pregnant get vaccinated?

Yes. Both women taking contraceptives and women planning to get pregnant can get the COVID-19 vaccine. There is no data showing health risks of taking the COVID-19 vaccine, with contraceptive-use and planning pregnancy. Women actively trying to get pregnant can be vaccinated.

3. Should pregnant women wait until after delivery to get vaccinated?

Pregnant women should get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible to protect themselves and their babies. Pregnant women are more likely to get severely ill if infected by COVID-19, and increase the risk of a preterm birth. More than 100,00 pregnant women are a part of the CDC post-vaccination surveillance app.

The data shows short term side effects such as fever, redness at injection site, and fatigue in pregnant women are similar to non-pregnant women.

4. Can the COVID-19 vaccine be harmful for the mother and child?

No. Over 100,000 pregnant people have taken the COVID-19 vaccine. Experts say there has not been any health or safety concerns for the vaccinated pregnant people. There has not been an increased risk of miscarriage amongst people vaccinated against COVID-19. Pregnant people who get COVID-19 are at a higher risk of preterm birth and higher risk of other pregnancy outcomes compared to a pregnant person without COVID-19. In addition, if a pregnant person does get COVID-19, they are at higher risk of being severely ill.

5. Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am breastfeeding?

Based on the current data, it is safe for a breastfeeding mother to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines do not have the live COVID-19 virus and findings show mRNA vaccines do not put the baby at risk. The findings are based on the CDC's COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring system.

If you have any concerns, have a conversation with your doctor regarding risks and benefits.

6. If I only have access to the J&J vaccine? Should I be concerned about blood clots?

Blood clots are **EXTREMELY Rare**. J&J reported 22 women who developed blood clots - this comes to .32 cases per million people. Over 11 million J&J vaccines have been given. Clotting is a side effect of birth control and on average amongst women on birth control, 1 in 3000 have blood clots, or 300-900 cases per million people.

7. What are the symptoms of a blood clotting reaction to the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine?

If a person gets serious side effects from the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine within three weeks of getting vaccinated, it may require emergency care

Possible symptoms may include:

- Shortness of breath
- Persistent stomach pain
- Severe or persistent headaches or blurred vision
- Chest pain
- Leg swelling
- Easy bruising or darkened spots on the skin beyond injection site

Mild to moderate headaches and muscle aches are common side-effects for the first three days after getting vaccinated which do not require emergency care.

PEOPLE WITH UNDERLYING CONDITIONS



1. Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have a pre-existing condition?

The FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines can be received by **most people** with pre-existing health conditions. In addition, if you have not had any allergic reactions to a COVID-19 vaccine or any of their ingredients. It is recommended for adults of any age with underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and [other medical conditions](#) to get vaccinated as they are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

2. Can anyone with a pre-existing condition get the vaccine?

People who have **weakened immune systems, autoimmune conditions**, previously had **Guillain-Barre syndrome** or **Bell's palsy**, may get the COVID-19 vaccine once they are able to, though information on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine is not yet available, with research still on going. The COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials included people with underlying medical conditions from diverse demographics and medical conditions. It is important to ask your doctor if you have specific questions.

If anyone with a pre-existing condition has severe allergies to any of the ingredients of the vaccines, it is advised they do not get vaccinated and talk to their doctor.

3. Can I get vaccinated if I have allergies?

If you have a history of allergic reactions that require the epipen, **you SHOULD receive the vaccine** .

- The chances of anaphylaxis are 2.5 cases per million!
- The chances of anaphylaxis for The Flu are 1.3 cases per million!

Take these steps:

- Take the epipen with you.
- Notify the staff upon arrival
- If you have a reaction - do not get the second dose

4. What are the signs of an allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine?

If you experience an allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine within four hours of receiving your first vaccine dose here are the signs to lookout for;

- Continuous shortness of breath or wheezing
- Swelling of the lips, eyes or tongue
- Redness, swelling or itchiness in areas of the body or other areas in which the vaccine was given

If any signs of an allergic reaction are experienced, get help right away! It is important to let your doctor know about the reaction even if it went away without any care. The reaction could mean you are allergic to the vaccine. Though you might not be able to get the second dose of the same vaccine, it is possible to be able to get a different vaccine for your second dose.

5. What does it mean to be moderately or severely immunocompromised? Do I need additional doses?

Immunocompromised people make up about 2.7% of US adults. Being immunocompromised means the immune system is weakened and therefore the ability to fight infections and diseases is reduced partially or completely. People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised have immune systems which find it harder to build the same level of immunity to the COVID-19 two-dose series unlike someone who is not immunocompromised.

To make sure there is enough protection against COVID-19 infection, experts recommend that those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should get the additional dose of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after receiving the first two. The purpose of the additional dose is to improve the response of the initial vaccine series of people with compromised immune systems. For people with no compromised immune system this would be considered a booster shot, where the immune response from the initial vaccine series would have most likely decreased.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS

1. As an essential worker will I be required to get vaccinated for work?

The government does not require individuals to get vaccinated in order to work.

Essential workers are very important in communities and by getting vaccinated they not only protect themselves, but their friends, family and colleagues in their workplace. This will also allow them to better engage in their work. Essential workers can ask their employer if vaccines will be available to employees. COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone in Fulton County regardless of their immigration or health insurance status. They should get vaccinated as soon as they can if they are eligible.

ALIVE &
IN **COLOR**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL US AT ALIVEANDINCOLOR@THEBLKCROSS.CO