**Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?**

**No.** None of the authorized and recommended [COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html) contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine **cannot** make you sick with COVID-19.

There are several different types of vaccines in development. All of them teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/how-they-work.html).

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it’s possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

**Do I have to pay for the COVID-19 Vaccine?**

**No.** The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

COVID-19 vaccination providers **cannot**:

* Charge you for the vaccine
* Charge you directly for any administration fees, copays, or coinsurance
* Deny vaccination to anyone who does not have health insurance coverage, is underinsured, or is out of network
* Charge an office visit or other fee to the recipient if the only service provided is a COVID-19 vaccination
* Require additional services in order for a person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine; however, additional healthcare services can be provided at the same time and billed as appropriate

COVID-19 vaccination providers **can**:

* Seek appropriate reimbursement from the recipient’s plan or program (e.g., private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid) for a vaccine administration fee
  + However, providers **cannot** charge the vaccine recipient the balance of the bill
* Seek reimbursement for uninsured vaccine recipients from the [Health Resources and Services Administration’s COVID-19 Uninsured Programexternal icon](https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim)

**After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?**

**No.** Neither the recently authorized and recommended vaccines nor the other COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States can cause you to test positive on [viral tests](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html), which are used to see if you have a **current infection**.​

If your body develops an immune response—the goal of vaccination—there is a possibility you may test positive on some [antibody tests](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/serology-overview.html). Antibody tests indicate you had a **previous infection** and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

**Will a COVID-19 vaccination protect me from getting sick with COVID-19?**

**Yes.** COVID-19 vaccination works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19, and this protects you from getting sick with COVID-19.

Being protected from getting sick is important because even though many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a [severe illness](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), have [long-term health effects](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects.html), or even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you don’t have an [increased risk of developing severe complications](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html). Learn more about [how COVID-19 vaccines work](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/how-they-work.html).

**Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?**

**No.** COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

There are currently two types of COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized for use in the United States: messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines and viral vector vaccines.

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines, which teach our cells how to make a protein that triggers an immune response. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way. Instead, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work with the body’s natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease. Learn more about [how COVID-19 mRNA vaccines work](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html). ​

At the end of the process, our bodies have learned how to protect against future infection from COVID-19. That immune response and the antibodies that our bodies make protect us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

**Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?**

**Yes.**If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.

There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Like all vaccines, scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects now and will continue to study them for many years.