



Facts about the COVID-19 Vaccine

There have been many questions about the efficacy and safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine. Waukesha County Public Health has answered some of the most common myths related to the COVID-19 Vaccine. If you have a question that was not answered below, [please send us a message](#).

- **Myth:** “You can get sick with COVID from the vaccine.”

Fact: You cannot get COVID-19 from any of the COVID-19 vaccines.

None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines in the United States contain a live virus. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. Some people experience mild side effects after they get vaccinated. This does not mean you are sick with COVID-19, it is a normal sign your body is building protection to the virus. Most side effects go away in a few days. The likelihood of a severe side effect is less than 0.5%.

- **Myth:** “There are severe side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines.”

Fact: If you’re concerned about side effects, we hear you. However, **the likelihood of a severe side effect is less than 0.5%**. When mild side effects occur, they are a normal sign your body is building protection to the virus, and most go away in a few days. More information about side effects is available [here](#).

- **Myth:** “If you have a strong immune system you do not need to get vaccinated against COVID-19.”

Fact: **Getting vaccinated is important to bringing the COVID-19 pandemic to an end.** By getting vaccinated, you can help end the damage to the economy, prevent more illnesses and deaths in America, and eliminate and eradicate COVID-19.

Some of the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination include:

- **Exemption from quarantine and testing:** A fully vaccinated person who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, does not need to test or quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic. This will have many positive impacts for classrooms and businesses that have had to alter operations throughout the pandemic after a known exposure in their facilities.
- **A return to normal.** People who are vaccinated can begin to resume some activities unmasked and indoors if they are interacting with other vaccinated people, or unvaccinated people from a single household. The more people who are vaccinated, the more life will begin to return to normal. Learn what vaccinated people can do, and which activities still require precautions [here](#).
- **Protecting yourself from getting COVID-19.** COVID-19 can have serious, life-threatening complications, and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. Although there is a slight chance that a vaccinated person could get the virus, vaccinated people are highly protected from hospitalization and death. If you do get sick, your symptoms will be milder. Vaccination is also the safest way to build immunity.
- **Protecting your family and friends from the virus.** If you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you. Some people in your family or community may not be able to get vaccinated due to certain health conditions. They rely on you to help prevent the spread of disease. Early research also shows that vaccinated people who get COVID-19 are less likely to spread the virus asymptotically.



- **Myth:** “The ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccines aren’t safe.”

Fact: 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. A safety board approved every study, and the FDA carefully reviewed the data from every phase of every vaccine trial. Although local and systemic side effects have been reported, as is the case for many other medical interventions, the risk of lacking protection against COVID-19 and developing severe disease far exceeds those posed by the vaccine itself.

- **Myth:** “The COVID-19 vaccine was developed too quickly to be safe and effective.”

Fact: The groundbreaking cooperation between leading medical experts here in America and pharmaceutical companies globally has made a return to normal possible thanks to the COVID-19 vaccine. The speed of development was due to the sharing of research on a scale never attempted before – and every study, and every phase of every trial, was carefully reviewed and approved by a safety board at the FDA. The process was transparent and rigorous throughout, with continual oversight and expert approval.

Medical experts had a head start at developing vaccines because they were able to use data from previous coronaviruses, such as SARS in 2002 and MERS in 2012.

The development and implementation planning phases have been run side-by-side, instead of one after the other. This was possible because of unprecedented funding. A safety board approved every study, and the FDA carefully reviewed the data from every phase of every vaccine trial. Safety of the vaccine will be continually monitored throughout the years.

- **Myth:** “The COVID-19 vaccine is too expensive.”

Fact: The COVID-19 vaccine is 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 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
- Providers may also seek reimbursement for uninsured vaccine recipients from the Health Resources and Services Administration’s COVID-19 Uninsured Program.



- **Myth:** *"It's too soon to know the long-term effects of the vaccine."*

Fact: Medical experts overwhelmingly agree that the long-term effects of being infected with COVID-19 virus are likely to be worse than getting vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is a safer way to build immunity than being infected with the virus. At this point, more than 320 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered worldwide – more than double to total number of COVID-19 cases.

Given the sheer number of vaccines administered to date, common, uncommon and rare side-effects would have been detected by now. What's more, these vaccines have been tested in clinical trials since mid-2020, and all vaccines in the United States have shown excellent safety results. This gives us confidence the vaccines are safe.

- **Myth:** *"I already had COVID-19 and I have recovered, so I don't need to get a COVID-19 vaccine when it's available."*

Fact: You should get the COVID-19 vaccine even if you've previously had COVID-19. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, and there is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. Getting vaccinated is a safer way to build immunity from COVID-19 than getting the virus.