

COVID VACCINE FAQs



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I already had COVID-19, why do I still need the vaccine?

Not enough is yet known about how long immunity from natural COVID-19 illness might last and protect you from becoming re-infected and spreading the illness to others. For that reason, even if you have already been infected, vaccination is an important step to protect yourself and those around you.

Why should I trust that the vaccine is safe when it was developed so quickly?

The FDA approves a vaccine for use only if it is proven safe and effective, after clinical trials have been conducted with thousands of people, and when its benefits outweigh any risks. The COVID-19 vaccine builds on years of scientific research and an unprecedented level of scientific investment and cooperation. Every study and every phase of every trial was carefully reviewed and approved by a safety board and the FDA. The process was transparent and rigorous throughout, with continual oversight and expert approval.

The likelihood of a medically significant reaction is extremely low. Temporary side effects like soreness, headaches, or a mild fever are signs that the body is responding and building an immunity to the virus. They typically go away in a day or two.

How can I be sure the long-term side effects of the vaccine won't be worse than having COVID-19?

The threat of COVID-19 is real and urgent, especially with the more contagious Delta variant that is making younger, unvaccinated people more sick than earlier strains of the virus. The benefits of getting vaccinated far outweigh the risks. COVID-19 has killed thousands of Americans every day and leaving many others with lasting symptoms and disability. Getting vaccinated will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe.

Is it important that I get the second dose?

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single-dose vaccine, while the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines are based on a two-dose regimen. It's important to get both doses of these vaccines because that's what was shown to be effective during the clinical trials.

Who is currently eligible to receive the COVID vaccine?

Pfizer vaccine is available to anyone 12 and older. While Johnson and Johnson and Moderna vaccines are approved for anyone 18 and older.

How long does it take for the vaccine to provide immunity?

You are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after you have received the second dose in a two-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after you have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson). While vaccines must be highly effective to be approved for use, no vaccine provides 100% immunity, so fully vaccinated individuals should continue to take precautions in public and when around unvaccinated people. The vaccines have been shown to substantially protect people from the risk of severe illness and death.

What is the risk of having an adverse reaction to the vaccine?

The risk of a medically significant adverse reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine is extremely low and the CDC and FDA are closely monitoring the safety of all approved vaccines. Mild side effects — like some soreness in the arm, fatigue, headache, or a slight fever — are signs that your body is building up protections and go away in one to two days. Even if you don't experience any side effects, your immune system is still building your protection against the virus.

How will we know if a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

The U.S. has a long history of assuring vaccines are safe through the use of specific, detailed, and time-tested protocols. Before any new vaccine is brought to market, it has been given to thousands of people under stringent monitoring for safety. Sometimes, very rare side effects are recognized only after the vaccine is licensed because they occur so infrequently, but such side effects are very rare and must be weighed against the good the vaccine will do.

LDCPH and community partners are committed to vaccinating 70% of Douglas County's eligible population by Aug. 31. We can provide vaccines at any business or event in the county, especially in Eudora, Baldwin City and Lecompton. Visit LDCHHealth.org/COVIDClinic to request vaccinations on site at your event.

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