

ABOUT Vaccines for Other Diseases

Vaccines can prevent infectious diseases that once killed or harmed many children and adults. Without vaccines, you and your child are at risk for getting seriously ill and suffering pain, disability, and even death from diseases like measles and whooping cough.

***I**'s always better to prevent a disease than to treat it after it occurs.*

SMALLPOX - This disfiguring and almost always fatal disease has been eradicated in the United States by vaccination.

POLIO - Eliminated in the United States by vaccination, and continued use of polio vaccine has kept this country polio-free. But, polio is still a threat in some other countries.

MEASLES - Did you know your child can get it just by being in a room where a person with measles has been, even up to two hours after that person has left? Measles is very contagious, and it can be serious, especially for young children. Because measles is common in other parts of the world, unvaccinated people can get measles while traveling and bring it into the United States. Anyone who is not protected against measles is at risk.

CHICKENPOX - A disease that causes an itchy rash of blisters over the whole body (as many as 500) and a fever. Chickenpox can be serious, even life-threatening, especially in babies, adolescents, adults, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems. About 9 out of 10 children who get vaccinated will be completely protected from chickenpox.

DIPHThERIA - Most of us only know it as an obscure disease from long ago, thanks to the diphtheria vaccine. This vaccine, called DTaP, provides protection against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough). While preventable, diphtheria does still exist. It can cause a thick covering in the back of the nose or throat that makes it hard to breathe or swallow. Diphtheria can also lead to heart failure, paralysis, and even death.

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Get vaccinated and wear masks indoors in public spaces to reduce the spread of this virus.

VACCINES WORK



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ANSWERS TO YOUR VACCINE QUESTIONS

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Won't I have immunity if I already had COVID-19?

While it's true you will have some immunity, **people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19.** One study showed that unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are more than **2 times** as likely than fully vaccinated people to get COVID-19 again.

On the other hand, COVID-19 vaccines are effective at helping protect against **severe disease and death** from variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 currently circulating, including the Delta variant.

About the Delta Variant:

The Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than earlier forms of the virus that causes COVID-19. It might cause more severe illness than previous strains in UNvaccinated people.

- Vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that cause COVID-19, including this variant.
- Vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death, including against this variant.
- Fully vaccinated people with breakthrough infections from this variant appear to be infectious for a shorter period.

It's just the flu, so what's the big deal?

COVID-19 is still a threat to people who are unvaccinated.

Some people who get COVID-19 can become severely ill, which could result in hospitalization or death, and some people have ongoing health problems several weeks or even longer after getting infected.

Even people who did not have symptoms when they were infected can have these ongoing health problems.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No. None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. You also are more susceptible to repeat cases of COVID-19 if left unvaccinated.

If I have an underlying condition, should I still get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, people with underlying medical conditions still should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination is important for adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions, because they are at *increased risk* for severe illness from COVID-19.

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A conversation with your doctor can help determine if the vaccine is right for you.

What side effects should I expect from the vaccine?

Some people have pain, redness or swelling on the arm where they got the shot.

Some also experience mild flu-like symptoms, such as, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever and nausea. Rest and fluids will get you through. **Some people have NO adverse reaction to the vaccine.**

These side effects generally last 12-48 HOURS. Contrast that with the 4-12 DAYS you will be sick with COVID-19 if left unvaccinated.

TRUTHS About the COVID-19 Vaccine

- » Development of the COVID vaccines started with SARS (2002) and MERS (2012). Only production of the vaccine was done quickly.
- » COVID-19 vaccines are SAFE and EFFECTIVE, with serious reactions being *very rare*, affecting less than .002%.
- » Almost 200 million people already have received the COVID-19 vaccine in the US alone.

MYTHS About the COVID-19 Vaccine

- » Contains microchips. **NO**
- » Causes you to be magnetic. **NO**
- » Alters your DNA. **NO**
- » Ivermectin is a safe alternative to the vaccine. **NO**
- » Contains fetal stem cells. **NO**
- » It's a government hoax/conspiracy. **NO**

Watch out for medical MIS-information!