What We Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

Presenter Name Here
Title and Command Here
Month ##, 2021
Overview

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Your concerns are heard.

- I have questions about the vaccine development process and timeline.
- I already had COVID-19 and have natural immunity.
- The vaccines are not licensed by FDA and are still experimental.
- I worry about getting COVID-19 and requiring hospitalization.
- I’m healthy and don’t usually get sick – or even an annual flu shot.
- I don’t want to get my family sick.
- The vaccine symptoms look worse than the virus symptoms.
- COVID-19 has the same mortality rate as the flu.
- I don’t want to impact my fertility/pregnancy/new baby.
- I just feel skeptical and don’t know who or what to believe.
- What’s the point if the public health protocols aren’t going away?
- There’s no long-term information to prove safety.
- I am being safe, and it has kept me healthy so far.
Information to consider...

1. Clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccines were five times larger than normal drug testing standards.
2. mRNA technology stems from research that began in the 1990s, which is one reason companies were able to develop a vaccine quickly.
3. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long.
5. The 2017-2018 flu season was the worst in the last 10 years, resulting in 61,000 American deaths. COVID-19 has killed more than 500,000 Americans.
6. The New England Journal of Medicine released a report that studied more than 35,000 pregnant participants. The report concluded that mRNA vaccines did not show obvious safety signals among pregnant women.
7. A vaccine builds an immune response that protects your health and the health of other people.
What do the vaccines do?

The Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccines and other COVID-19 candidate vaccines were developed to prevent infection from SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

• Vaccines activate your body to make antibodies that can block entry of the SARS-CoV-2 into your cells. They take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins in order to trigger an immune response.

• The proteins are recognized by your immune system as foreign, and your body makes antibodies that prevent you from getting sick if exposed to real COVID-19 disease.

• Although the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are the first mRNA vaccines, this technology has been under study for nearly two decades. These years of research are what make scientists confident that mRNA vaccines will not damage recipients' genes.

• The Janssen vaccine is a viral vector vaccine type. An adenovirus was modified to instruct cells to make the COVID-19 virus “spike” protein, which protects the person from getting infected with COVID-19.
Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Available COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness and hospitalization.

Over 148 million Americans have already received a COVID-19 vaccine. Over 3 million DoD personnel have chosen to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

*Data as of May 6, 2021
Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

The same rigorous safety reviews of other vaccines authorized for use by the Food and Drug Administration have been applied to COVID-19 vaccines. The FDA and Centers for Disease Control continue to monitor safety.

The Emergency Use Authorization, or EUA, currently in place means that these vaccines are not fully approved or yet licensed by the FDA.

However, an EUA is issued based on the review of the scientific evidence available at this time that shows a vaccine is generally safe and effective.

The EUA also establishes that known and potential benefits of the vaccine used to prevent COVID-19 outweigh its known and potential risks.
### What are the known risks?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Side Effects</th>
<th>COVID-19 Symptoms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injection Site Pain, Swelling, and/or Redness</td>
<td>Fever</td>
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<td>Fever</td>
<td>Headache</td>
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<td>Headache</td>
<td>Fatigue</td>
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<td>Nausea</td>
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<td>Swollen Lymph Nodes</td>
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<td>Rare Allergic Reactions</td>
<td>Difficulty Breathing</td>
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<td>Loss of Taste or Smell</td>
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<td>Sneezing</td>
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<td>Stuffy Nose</td>
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<td>Diarrhea</td>
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<td>Longer lasting symptom challenges</td>
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*This list is not all inclusive.*
We have faced other viruses before.

HISTORY PROVES
Vaccines Save Lives!

WE’VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
WE KNOW WHAT TO DO — GET VACCINATED!
Where can I go to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

TRICARE.mil/VaccineAppointments

You have options on where to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. You can go to military hospitals or clinics, TRICARE network providers, TRICARE network pharmacies and retail pharmacies.

TRICARE.mil/VaccineAppointments can help you find a vaccine site location near you.

There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine at TRICARE network and non-network pharmacies. If you get a COVID-19 vaccine outside of the DoD, please share that information to update your medical record.
What do I need to do after a COVID-19 vaccine?

We need to continue physically distancing, avoiding crowds and washing hands often until we’ve stopped the pandemic.

At this time, we don’t know how long the vaccine lasts. This is something we are still learning, which is why it’s important to continue public health measures.

Visit CDC.gov for the latest COVID-19 guidance.
Questions and Discussion