

# COVID-19 FAQs

## HISPANIC AUDIENCES

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### COVID-19 VACCINATION

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Have questions? That's ok.

Now is the time to get the facts.

Getting back to the moments we miss starts with getting informed. It is up to you.

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#### How do COVID-19 vaccines protect us?

When we get a vaccine, it activates our immune response. This helps our bodies learn to fight off the virus without the danger of an actual infection. If we are exposed to the virus in the future, our immune system "remembers" how to fight it. All authorized COVID-19 vaccines provide significant protection against serious illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines use messenger RNA, or mRNA. mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus — they give our bodies "instructions" for how to make and fight the harmless spike-shaped proteins that will protect against a COVID-19 infection. While these vaccines use new technology, researchers have been studying them for decades.

The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine is a viral vector vaccine and also does not contain a live virus. It uses a harmless adenovirus to create a spike protein that the immune system responds to, creating antibodies to protect against COVID-19

It takes time for your body to build immunity after vaccination, so you won't have full protection until 2 weeks after your final dose.

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## HISPANIC AUDIENCES

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### **Are COVID-19 vaccines fully approved by the FDA?**

As of August 2021, FDA has fully approved the Pfizer vaccine (Comirnaty) for use in the United States. This goes a step further than emergency use authorization to assure the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines to protect against serious illness due to COVID-19.

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### **What does it mean when the FDA has granted full approval?**

FDA announced full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in August 2021. The vaccine is now available under the name Comirnaty.

Before granting this approval, FDA evaluated and analyzed the safety and effectiveness data from clinical trials conducted in tens of thousands of study participants along with manufacturing information submitted by Pfizer-BioNTech.

FDA determined that the data provide clear evidence that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may be effective in preventing COVID-19 and support that the known and potential benefits outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine's use in millions of people 16 years of age and older, including healthy individuals. For more info visit [getvaccineanswers.org](https://www.getvaccineanswers.org).

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## HISPANIC AUDIENCES

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### **Did clinical trials include people like me?**

Researchers made sure that the trials included adults of diverse backgrounds, races, ethnicities, and geographic areas. They collaborated with faith leaders, community organizations, and health clinics to reach volunteers from many different walks of life across the United States.

Medical experts and doctors want to make sure the vaccines work safely and effectively for as many people as possible. People may respond differently to vaccines based on factors like age, gender, and health conditions — so it is important to have a diverse group of participants in clinical trials.

COVID-19 has hit hard in the Black and Hispanic communities. Historically, these populations haven't always been included in clinical research, but with COVID-19 vaccines researchers made sure volunteers included people of color, as well as people over the age of 65 who are at higher risk of complications from the virus.

### **Do I have to show proof of citizenship to get vaccine?**

CDC does not require United States citizenship for individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

### **What if I have an underlying health condition?**

People with underlying medical conditions can receive the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, vaccination is especially important for adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions, like diabetes and high blood pressure, because they are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Ask your doctor if you have specific questions.

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## HISPANIC AUDIENCES

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### Do vaccines protect against new variants?

New variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 illness have emerged. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States should work against these variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including against new variants. CDC recommends getting vaccinated as soon as a vaccine is available to you.

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### Do vaccines impact fertility?

There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems. 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. Like with all vaccines, medical experts are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects and will report findings as they become available.

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### What should I know about vaccines and pregnancy?

CDC and the FDA have safety monitoring systems in place to gather information about COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and are closely monitoring that information. Preliminary data from these systems are reassuring. They did not identify any safety concerns for pregnant people who were vaccinated, or for their babies.

Recent reports have shown that people who have received COVID-19 mRNA vaccines during pregnancy—mostly during their third trimester—have passed antibodies to their fetuses, which could help protect them after birth. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. There is also no evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of any FDA-authorized vaccine. Like with all vaccines, scientists are studying COVID-19 vaccines carefully for side effects and will report findings as they become available.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy can protect you from severe illness from COVID-19. A conversation between pregnant patients and their clinicians may help them decide whether to get vaccinated.

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### **Is it safe for me to get vaccinated while I am nursing my baby?**

It is recommended to vaccinate against COVID-19 all people 12 years of age or older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, who are trying to get pregnant now or who could become pregnant in the future. Although the overall risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 is low, it remains higher for pregnant people or those who have recently been pregnant in relation to people who are not pregnant. COVID-19 vaccines do not cause infections, nor do they cause infections in pregnant people or their babies: none of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines cannot make anyone sick with COVID-19, pregnant people or their babies.

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### **What should I know about keeping my child safe from variants?**

Vaccines in the US are highly effective, including against the Delta variant. Given what we know about the Delta variant, and until vaccines are approved for children under age 12, experts recommend having your child wear a mask to help protect them.

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### **If my child or teen has a disability, is it still recommended they get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend that all children over age 12 get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible.

As COVID-19 continues to spread, children and teens with a disability may be at increased risk for more severe illness and complications from getting COVID-19.

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### **Do vaccines impact fertility in men?**

Currently there is no evidence that any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, causes fertility problems in women or men. In August 2021, FDA granted full approval to the Pfizer vaccine (Comirnaty) and confirmed there is no scientific evidence to suggest that the vaccine could cause infertility.

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### **How do I know this vaccine won't have detrimental long-term effects?**

Serious side effects that would cause a long-term health problem are highly unlikely following a COVID-19 vaccine.

Long-term side effects following any vaccine are extremely rare. Historically, vaccine monitoring has shown that if side effects are going to happen, they tend to happen within six weeks of a vaccine dose.

For this reason, the Food and Drug Administration made sure each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines was studied for at least eight weeks after the final dose. Millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines, and no long-term side effects have been detected.

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### **What should I know about breakthrough infections?**

COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing most cases of COVID infection. However, a small number of people who are fully vaccinated will still get COVID-19 if they are exposed to the virus that causes it. These are called "vaccine breakthrough cases." If you are fully vaccinated and do get COVID-19, you will still have protection against getting seriously ill or being hospitalized.

It's also possible for some fully vaccinated people to get infected without showing any symptoms. Experts continue to study how common these cases are.

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[Hispaniccommunityvaccin toolkit.org](https://Hispaniccommunityvaccin toolkit.org)