COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

Dedicated professionals who study vaccines are very confident that COVID-19 vaccines are **safe in the short term and the long term** for everyone 6 months and older. Here is why.

**Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.**

Results from vaccine safety monitoring efforts are reassuring. Some people have no side effects. Other people have reported common side effects for one or two days, like:

- Tiredness
- Chills
- Pain and swelling where you got the shot
- Fever
- Headache

Very few (less than 0.005%) vaccinated people have severe side effects. You are more likely to have serious long-term effects if you get COVID-19 and are not vaccinated.

**Decades of vaccine data show that all serious side effects, if there are any, show up within two months of vaccination - not years later.**

After you get a COVID-19 vaccine, your body creates **spike proteins**.

Your immune system creates **antibodies** to attack the spike proteins.

The vaccine and spike proteins are destroyed and **disappear** in a few days.

Your body has learned to fight COVID-19.

It is extremely unlikely for the vaccine to cause long-term side effects, because the vaccine gets completely broken down in your body.

COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you the COVID-19 virus.

COVID-19 vaccines do not change your DNA in any way.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe before, during, and after pregnancy.
COVID-19 vaccines went through full clinical trials to show that they are safe and effective.

In a public health crisis, Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) lets people get medical products as soon as possible, while still meeting scientific and safety standards.

The difference between EUA and full approval is that FDA needs to review six months of safety data (rather than two months for EUA) and more detailed manufacturing and chemistry data.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS.hhs.gov) picked up on the very rare thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (blood clots with low platelets) and myocarditis (inflammation of the heart). Both of these side effects appear in around three cases per million people a few days after vaccination.

People are far more likely to get blood clots or myocarditis after COVID-19 infection than after the vaccine.

Our U.S. safety monitoring systems are very good at catching even the rarest side effects.

The COVID-19 vaccine EUAs have saved thousands of lives by helping people get vaccinated quickly.

It is much safer to get the vaccine than it is to stay unvaccinated and get infected with COVID-19.

Visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-safety.htm to learn more. Go to vaccines.gov or call 211 to find a COVID-19 vaccine near you. It's free!