



COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

Answers to your COVID-19 Vaccination Questions

Q: Does WellSpan recommend the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: WellSpan Health endorses the COVID-19 vaccine. Our experts have reviewed the available research and find the vaccine to be safe and effective and are encouraging community members to make an informed decision about receiving it.

Q: How much does the COVID-19 vaccine cost?

A: The COVID-19 vaccine will be free. However, vaccine administration charges will be billed to insurance with no out-of-pocket costs incurred by patients.

Q: Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe and effective?

A: Yes, all the available COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. The Pfizer vaccine has been approved by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) for ages 5 and above.

The Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines have been through a rigorous testing process before being authorized as safe and effective for emergency use by the FDA. Pfizer is authorized for emergency use for ages 5-15.

Additionally, WellSpan experts have carefully reviewed the available research data and find the vaccines to be safe and effective.

Q: Are there side effects to the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: Most people do not have serious problems after being vaccinated. However, your arm may be sore, red, or warm to the touch. These symptoms usually go away on their own within a week. Some people report getting a headache or fever after getting a vaccine. These side effects are a sign that your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. It is working and building up protection against disease.

Q: Is it dangerous to receive the vaccine if I am COVID-19 positive at the time I get vaccinated? What if I am asymptomatic and do not realize I have COVID-19?

A: There is no health or safety risk related to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine while you are COVID-19 positive. Persons with a known current COVID-19 infection should wait to be vaccinated until they recover from the acute illness (if the person had symptoms) and criteria have been met to discontinue isolation. If a person is asymptomatic and unknowingly gets vaccinated while COVID-19 positive, there is no danger to their safety. If you have had COVID-19 and were treated with an antibody treatment, you should wait 90 days (about 3 months) after the treatment before receiving the vaccine.



Q: Should we be worried about how quickly this vaccine was created?

A: No. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our country has focused all efforts and attentions on creating a safe COVID-19 vaccine. This means less barriers, more “hands on deck” and more funding to achieve our collective goal. The U.S. government has united government agencies, international counterparts, academia, nonprofit organizations and pharmaceutical companies to develop a coordinated strategy for prioritizing and speeding development of the most promising vaccines.

In addition, the federal government has made investments in the necessary manufacturing capacity at its own risk, giving companies confidence that they can invest aggressively in development and allowing faster distribution of an eventual vaccine.

However, efforts to speed vaccine development to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have not sacrificed scientific standards, integrity of the vaccine review process, or safety.

Q: What does Emergency Use Authorization mean?

A: At this time, the Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. Pfizer has received EUA for ages 5-15. According to the FDA, an EUA is a mechanism to facilitate the availability and use of medical countermeasures, including vaccines, during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. Under an EUA, the FDA may allow the use of unapproved medical products, or unapproved uses of approved medical products in an emergency to diagnose, treat, or prevent serious or life-threatening diseases or conditions when certain statutory criteria have been met, including that there are no adequate, approved, and available alternatives. Taking into consideration input from the FDA, manufacturers decide whether and when to submit an EUA request to the FDA. Once submitted, the FDA evaluates an EUA request and determines whether the relevant statutory criteria are met, considering the totality of the scientific evidence about the vaccine that is available to FDA.



For additional information, visit wellspan.org/covid19 using this QR Code.

Q: If someone has allergies, is the COVID-19 vaccine recommended?

A: If you have a food allergy, such as to nuts or eggs, it should be considered safe to receive the vaccine. If you have an EpiPen because you have had previous serious allergic reactions, we recommend that you bring it with you to your appointment in the rare event of a reaction.

If you previously had an allergic reaction to a vaccine, please consult with your primary care physician prior to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are allergic to any ingredient in the COVID-19 vaccine per the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization Fact Sheet, you should not receive the vaccine.

Q: Should pregnant women receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

A: The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) strongly recommend that pregnant women receive the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 infection puts pregnant people at an increased risk of severe complications. It may be helpful for pregnant and breastfeeding women to speak with their providers to help guide them in making an informed decision about being vaccinated.

Q: I have read that the COVID-19 vaccine might cause infertility. Is this true?

A: Vaccination is strongly encouraged for non-pregnant individuals. Further, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends vaccination of individuals who are actively trying to become pregnant or are contemplating pregnancy and meet the criteria for vaccination. It is not necessary to delay pregnancy after completing both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Importantly, unfounded claims linking COVID-19 vaccines to infertility have been scientifically disproven. ACOG recommends vaccination for all eligible people who may consider future pregnancy. Due to the way immunity is delivered to the body, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are not a cause of infertility. Vaccines that use inactivated viruses, such as the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, cannot replicate; and available data suggests it is cleared from the body after the shot is given. Because it does not replicate in the cells, the vaccine cannot cause infection or alter the DNA of a vaccine recipient and is also not a cause of infertility.