COVID-19 VACCINATION FAQS

DO I NEED COVID-19 VACCINATION IF I’VE ALREADY HAD COVID-19?
Yes. People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 should still get vaccinated, due to severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and because re-infection with COVID-19 is possible.

HOW DO I KNOW THE COVID-19 VACCINES ARE SAFE?
All three vaccines approved by the Food and Drug Administration have been thoroughly tested and found to be safe and effective in preventing severe COVID-19. They have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in US history, using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure the vaccines are both effective and safe.

CAN THE COVID-19 VACCINE MAKE ME SICK WITH COVID-19?
No. None of the approved COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development 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 may sometimes feel slightly ill after getting vaccinated, though. How the vaccines work is that they teach our immune systems to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. After being vaccinated, some people may experience a fever, body aches, or feel tired. Such responses are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity against the virus. It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination.

WILL A COVID-19 VACCINE ALTER MY DNA?
No. Neither COVID-19 mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) nor viral vector vaccines (Johnson & Johnson) change or interact with your DNA in any way.

ARE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE FOR THOSE WHO ARE PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING?
Evidence about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy has been growing. Current data suggest that the benefits of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine outweigh any known or potential risks of vaccination during pregnancy. Those who are pregnant or breastfeeding should discuss potential benefits and risks of vaccination with their healthcare provider.

IF I’VE HAD SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS TO VACCINES IN THE PAST, CAN I GET A COVID-19 VACCINE?
If you have had an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe—to a vaccine or injectable therapy for another disease, ask your doctor if you should receive a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are receiving a two-dose vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) and have an immediate allergic reaction to the first dose, speak with your physician before proceeding with the second dose.