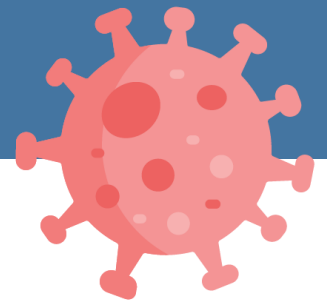




# FACT SHEET



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SAFETY OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

*This fact sheet was updated on Dec. 21, 2021. It is based on information that was available at that time. This information might change in the future.*

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a new coronavirus. You can get very sick from **COVID-19**. It can make it hard for you to breathe.

New types of COVID-19 emerge over time. Each type is called a **variant**. The Delta variant is easier to catch and can make you sicker than previous variants. The Omicron variant is also easier to catch.

There are **vaccines** to help your body fight COVID-19. A vaccine is a shot in the arm. This fact sheet will help you understand whether the vaccine for COVID-19 is safe.



The COVID-19 vaccine is safe for most people. Thousands of people tested the vaccine. People who get the vaccine are much less likely to get sick.

Very few people had severe **side effects**. Severe sideeffects are shortness of breath, a rash, swelling of the tongue, shock, hives, wheezing, or other things. In rare cases, people have blood clots after receiving the vaccine from Johnson and Johnson. As a result, people are advised to get the vaccine from Pfizer or Moderna instead.



Different kinds of people tried the COVID-19 vaccine. Some had lung disease, heart disease, and diabetes. Some were Black, Hispanic, or Asian. Some were older. All of them did well.

The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19. The vaccine does not have the coronavirus in it.

Talk to your doctor about the vaccine if you have questions.

### Some people should talk to their doctor before getting the vaccine:

- You should talk to your doctor if you have a weak immune system.
- You should talk to your doctor if you are allergic to other vaccines.



### Some people should not get the vaccine now:

- People who currently have COVID-19 should wait to get the vaccine until they have recovered. Visit [this website](#) to learn when you are recovered.
- People under 5 years old cannot get the vaccine at this time.

