

COVID-19 Vaccination Information FAQ

Walk-in Vaccination Centers are now open!

Gulfport

Monday - Friday | 9:00am - 1:00pm

Singing River Mobile Care Clinic | 15200 Community Rd.

Pascagoula

Monday - Friday | 8:00am - 7:00pm

Singing River Healthplex | 3101 Denny Ave.

Vaccine Questions? Call 228-809-5335

Will the COVID-19 vaccine help prevent me from getting COVID-19 or spreading it?

That is the intent. Vaccines are a simple, safe, and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them. Vaccinations such as the COVID-19 vaccine train your immune system to create antibodies just like it does when it's exposed to any infection – granting immunity to the virus without ever being infected. The vaccine has shown up to 90% effectiveness but we must continue to use every tool to stop this pandemic including vaccinations, hand washing, physically distancing and wearing a mask.

How does it work?

The messenger RNA (mRNA) found in the COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna stimulate your body's immune system to respond as if it were a true infection. The specifically designed mRNA teaches your cells how to mimic the viral proteins of COVID-19, triggering your immune system to create antibodies to fight it off. If you are exposed to COVID-19 after receiving the vaccine, your body will automatically detect and destroy the virus before it causes severe illness. The vaccine will also minimize your risk of re-infection should you encounter or are exposed to the same virus again.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.



Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?

The mRNA technology in the COVID-19 vaccine does NOT use any live, dead, or weakened forms of viruses or bacteria to create antibodies.

How many shots are required?

The COVID-19 vaccine will require one dose or two, depending on which vaccine you receive. The two-dose vaccine will be given one dose at a time, after the first initial dose the individual will receive the second dose within 3-6 weeks after the first to ensure effectiveness.



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What happens if I don't get the second shot within the allotted time frame? Will I still be considered vaccinated?

To ensure optimal effectiveness, it is highly recommended that you receive the second dose within the specified time frame as directed by the manufacturer. If you don't receive the second shot, you will greatly decrease the chance of the vaccine working. You will be considered partially vaccinated.

If I've already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. There is not enough information currently available to say how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. In order to stop this pandemic, we need to use every tool available which includes immunization, social distancing, hand-washing, and wearing masks.

Are the vaccines FDA approved?

The Pfizer vaccine received full FDA approval on 8/23/21. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved by the FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), which allows for distribution of a treatment, drug, or vaccination during public health emergencies, after taking into account the totality of the scientific evidence available to the FDA. Rigorous testing of all three vaccines have been completed and hundreds of millions of doses have been given across the U.S., with overwhelming evidence that all three vaccines are safe and effective.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccination is safe and side effects from the vaccine are minor and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever. Allergic reactions are very rare. You are far more likely to be seriously injured by COVID-19 or any other vaccine-preventable disease than by its vaccine. The benefits of vaccination greatly outweigh the risks, and many more illnesses and deaths would occur without vaccines.

How much will the vaccine cost?

There will be no cost to patients at this time.

How long will the vaccine last?

Since this is a novel virus, we are still unsure how long the vaccine antibodies will last. We are closely monitoring the research as more data becomes available.

Why should my child get vaccinated?

The CDC recommends everyone 12 years and older should get vaccinated to help protect themselves against COVID-19. As new variants of COVID-19 occur, risk to children may increase. Vaccination is one of the best means to protect your children from serious illness, along with continued mask wearing, hand-washing, and social distancing.

Will I need a booster shot if I have already received the vaccine?

Booster shots may be recommended in the future for some or all vaccinated individuals. The CDC is closely monitoring these needs and developing recommendations based on the latest data.

Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I am fully vaccinated?

We recommend those that are fully vaccinated still wear masks when in crowds or public places with close contact. We encourage open discourse with a medical professional to determine when and where masking is appropriate.

If I'm vaccinated, can I get sick with delta variant of COVID-19?

Yes, but don't panic. While the recent COVID-19 vaccine is somewhat less protective against the delta variant, it is still highly effective at preventing severe illness and death.

The Pfizer Vaccine is fully approved by the FDA. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved under an Emergency Use Authorization. See the next page for an explanation of the difference between these two processes.

The Difference Between FDA Approval and FDA Emergency Use Authorization



Development

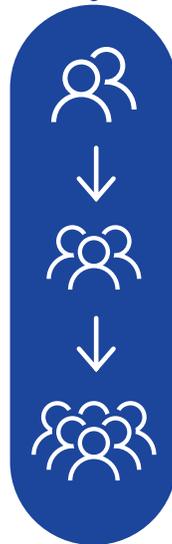
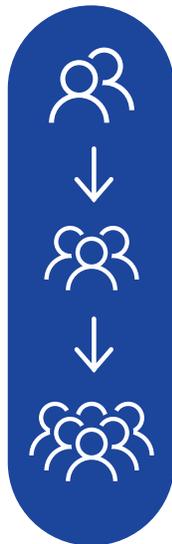
Organizations develop the vaccination to be tested.

FDA Emergency Use Authorization

To expedite vaccines for emergency use, testing and production are done at the same time, followed by approval and distribution.

Production & Testing

Mass amounts of vaccinations are made at the same time as testing is being performed.



FDA Approval

When time is not so much of the essence, testing is done first, followed by approval, and then production and distribution.

Testing

Three phases of clinical trials are conducted:

- A. Safety & Effectiveness are tested by administering to a small number of healthy people.
- B. A diverse group of hundreds of people with health conditions and differing demographics is tested.
- C. Placebos are tested against vaccines across thousands of diverse individuals.

Approval

Organizations that produce the vaccine apply for Emergency Use Authorization.



Approval

Organizations that produce the vaccine submit a Biologics License Application and if the FDA deems the vaccine safe and effective, the license is granted for the vaccine.

Distribution

The vaccine is made available for use.



Production

Mass amounts of the vaccine are made.



Distribution

The vaccine is made available for use.

In both cases, the same steps are followed, however, in Emergency Use Authorization, vaccines are able to be distributed sooner because they were being produced at the same time as testing.

They are still subject to approval prior to distribution in the same manner as a vaccine going through the FDA Approval process.