



## **10 Concerns about the COVID-19 Vaccine Answered**

### **How can I trust this vaccine – they developed it so quickly?**

To develop the COVID-19 Vaccine we cut red tape, not corners. The rapid spread of COVID-19 made developing these vaccines an international priority, unlocking billions of dollars in funding to ensure safety while moving with urgency to save lives. Many researchers and medical experts came together to develop the vaccine using existing technologies all while meeting the FDA's rigorous requirements for safety and effectiveness.



### **Is it safe for me to get the COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day or if I am currently pregnant?**

Yes: The vaccine is safe if you are pregnant or want to become pregnant.

Even better there is evidence that your baby also gains some protection when you are vaccinated. We do know that if you are pregnant and get COVID-19 your risk of a miscarriage or preterm labor are higher. The vaccine does not cause infertility in males or females.

### **How can I be sure the long-term side effects of the vaccine will not be worse than having COVID-19?**

Your concerns are valid; however, vaccines do not have long-term side effects and there is no reason why the COVID-19 vaccine would be different. The threat of COVID-19 is real and urgent, and the benefits of getting vaccinated far outweigh the risks. COVID-19 is killing thousands of Americans every day and leaving many others with lasting symptoms and disability. Getting vaccinated will help keep you, your family, and your community healthy and safe.

### **I already had COVID. Why do I still need the vaccine?**

We do not know how long your immunity lasts from COVID, but we know it lasts much longer if you get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated lessens your risk of getting reinfected and helps protect you and those around you.

### **Will the vaccine change my DNA?**

No: There is no way that the COVID-19 vaccine could ever interact with your DNA. All COVID-19 vaccines work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to COVID-19. None of the COVID-19 vaccines have the ingredients to be able to enter our cells nuclei (heart of the cell where DNA is stored) and interact with our DNA.



## Which COVID-19 vaccine is best?

The best COVID-19 vaccine is the first one that is available to you. All currently authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and reduce your risk of severe illness. The CDC does not recommend one vaccine over another. If there is a vaccine you would prefer, please call Schenectady County Public Health to see when and where each vaccine will be administered.

## Will there be a booster shot?

We do not know yet. The NIH (National Institute of Health) has started clinical trials on adult participants who have been fully vaccinated to determine the safety, efficacy, and potential need of a booster regimen. More information is needed to determine if and when we could potentially need a booster shot.

## Will the vaccine give me COVID?

No: None of the authorized vaccines contain the live COVID-19 virus. COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are signs that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.



## Is there a tracker in the vaccine? Does it make my arm magnetized?

NO: COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field or track your movements in any way.

## Will I die if I get the J&J vaccine?

The likelihood of the blood clotting disorder resulting from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is extremely low, but if you are concerned you can ask to receive one of the other vaccines. The risk varies by age and gender. There have been fewer than 1 case per million for men and for women who are 50 years or older; the risk is estimated to be about 7 cases per million for women aged 18 to 49. If you have questions about the J&J vaccine or other vaccines, talk to your doctor.

Have more questions or want to get the COVID-19 vaccine?  
Call Schenectady County Public Health Services at 518-386-2400

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines.html>  
<https://getvaccineanswers.org/questions>  
<https://publichealthcollaborative.org/faq/>  
<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-clinical-trial-evaluating-mixed-covid-19-vaccine-schedules-begins>