

Facts About the COVID-19 Vaccine



The COVID-19 vaccine, or shot, is an important tool to protect yourself and your family. It will also help to open schools and businesses as soon as possible.

You may have heard some confusing things about the vaccine. Here are the facts.



The COVID-19 Vaccine is Safe

Although developed quickly, the COVID-19 vaccine meets the same safety standards as other vaccines. It has been tested on tens of thousands of people of different ages and races. There were no serious safety concerns. For most people, the risks from getting COVID-19 far outweigh any minor risks from the vaccine.

The Vaccine Protects You from COVID-19

The vaccine works with your body's natural defenses to fight the virus if you are exposed. This is called *immunity*.



The Vaccine Will NOT Give You COVID-19

None of the vaccines now in use contain the live virus that causes COVID-19.

The Vaccine Does NOT Alter Your DNA

The vaccine never enters the nucleus, or center, of the human cell, where our DNA is kept.

The COVID-19 Does NOT Affect a Woman's Fertility

COVID-19 vaccines have NOT been linked to infertility or miscarriage. However, if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, talk to your healthcare provider before getting the vaccine.



To learn when and where you can be vaccinated, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine

You can also sign up at www.myturn.ca.gov to be notified when it is your turn.

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The Vaccine Does NOT Include Any Sort of Tracking Device

Some of the syringes, or needles, used to give the vaccine have a unique label. This helps medical workers confirm the vaccine origin. No label or other tracking device is injected into the person getting the vaccine.

You Will NOT Be Asked About Your Immigration Status

The vaccine is free, available regardless of immigration status, and you do not need insurance. Your privacy will be protected.

The Vaccine Has Some Side Effects

For most people these are minor, including muscle pain, chills and headache. Although rare, some people can have a severe allergic reaction to vaccine ingredients. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have a history of severe allergic reactions before getting the vaccine.



You Will Still Need to Wear A Mask After Getting the Vaccine

The vaccine keeps you from getting seriously sick from COVID-19. But we don't know if people who are vaccinated can still carry the virus and transmit it to others. Until we know more everyone should follow safety precautions. These include:

- Wearing a mask
- Washing your hands often
- Staying six feet away from people outside your household