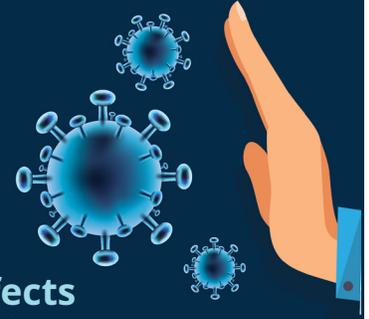# Frequently Asked Questions
COVID-19 Vaccine

Why should you get the COVID-19 vaccine?

A safe and effective vaccine can end the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts believe that at least 70% of people need to get the COVID-19 vaccine to help end the pandemic. The vaccine will also protect against the long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 infection that some people experience.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine give you COVID-19? Is there live virus in the vaccine?

None of the developed COVID-19 vaccines contain a live virus. This means the vaccine cannot give you or anyone else COVID-19 and thus, does not make you contagious.

Should you worry that the COVID-19 vaccine was made so quickly? Were any steps skipped?

No steps were skipped. Through federal government funding, there were two steps that were expedited to make the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Hired more staff to enroll those people who were being tested with the new vaccine.
- Added more capacity to produce a large supply of the vaccine.

How well does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

Both vaccines currently available through Pfizer and Moderna offer more than 94% protection against COVID-19 if the 2 doses are taken. Protection starts at 7 days after the second dose.

What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines?

Some people may feel flu-like side effects, such as fatigue, chills, fever, muscle and joint aches for 1–2 days, with rapid recovery. This does not mean that you are infected or contagious. Instead, these symptoms are simply a sign that your body is successfully developing the immune response you need to give you protection against COVID-19.

Do you have to do anything to prepare before taking the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, please do not take over-the-counter medicine, such as aspirin, acetaminophen (Tylenol) and ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil). These pills can lower your response to the vaccine. You may take these over-the-counter medicines after you get the vaccine, if you have any symptoms that make you uncomfortable.

Do you pay for the vaccine?

No. The COVID-19 vaccines are provided at no cost.

Do you need to get the vaccine if you already had COVID-19?

Yes. If you had COVID-19 you should still receive the vaccine. The vaccine will ensure you are protected with the benefits found in the trials. You should NOT receive the vaccine while you are sick. You can receive the vaccine after you recover. Talk to your provider, since at this time there are no specific guidelines.

For more local information about the vaccine, visit the Orange County Health Care Agency.

CalOptima
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UCI Health

STOP COVID-19
Orange County Nursing Home Infection Prevention Team

The Orange County Nursing Home Infection Prevention Team is coordinated by the University of California, Irvine Health and is jointly funded by Orange County Health Care Agency and CalOptima.