

# GETTING A COVID-19 VACCINE IS THE SAFER CHOICE.

## What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccination – The Basics!

### Can a COVID-19 vaccination make me sick with COVID-19?

No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

The 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 a sign that the body is building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity (protection against the virus that causes COVID-19) after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and still get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

### After getting vaccinated, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines will cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.

If your body develops an immune response—the goal of vaccination—there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests. Antibody tests indicate you had a previous infection and that you may have some level of protection against the virus. Experts are currently looking at how COVID-19 vaccination may affect antibody testing results.

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

Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection is possible, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection.

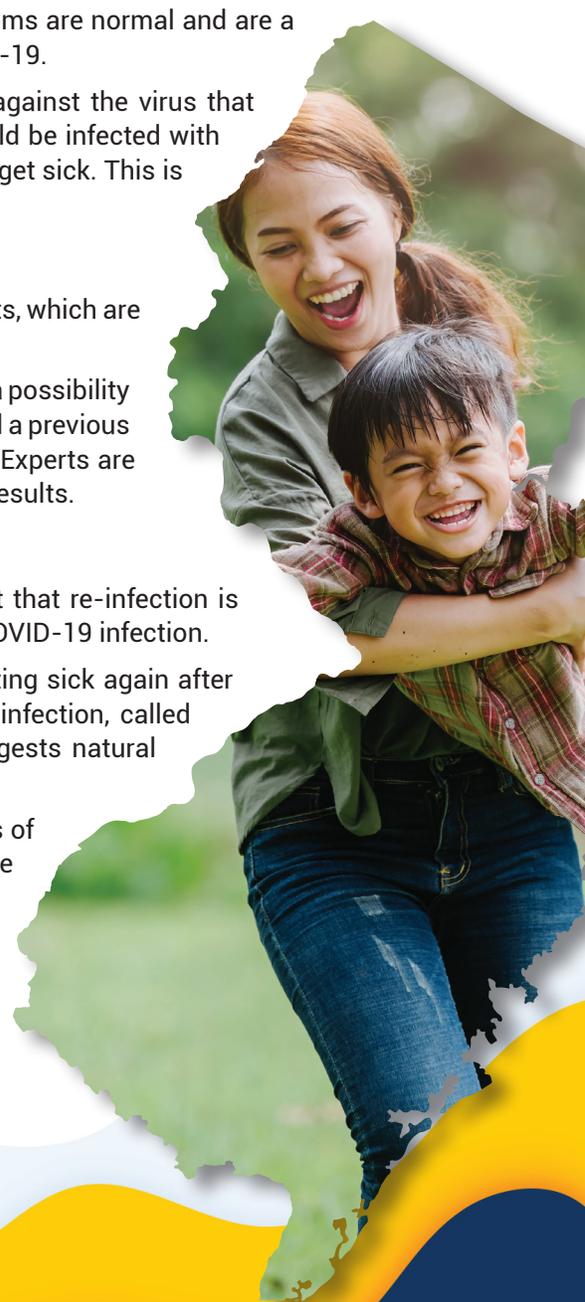
At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The immunity someone gains from having an infection, called natural immunity, varies from person to person. Some early evidence suggests natural immunity may not last very long.

Both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

### Will a COVID-19 vaccination keep me from getting sick with COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19, and this protects you from getting sick with COVID-19.

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# COVID19 VACCINATION – THE BASICS!

Continued...

Being protected from getting sick is important because even though many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness, have long-term health effects, or even die. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you, even if you don't have an increased risk of developing severe complications.

## **If I am pregnant, can I get a COVID -19 vaccine?**

Yes. If you are pregnant, you may choose to be vaccinated when it's available to you. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problem with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta.

## **Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccination if I want to have a baby one day?**

Yes. People who want to get pregnant in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine, like other vaccines, works by training our bodies to develop antibodies to fight against the virus that causes COVID-19, to prevent future illness. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of ANY vaccine. People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them.

## **Who is eligible for vaccination?**

Everyone 12 or older who lives, works, or studies in New Jersey is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccines are available to all New Jerseyans, regardless of immigration or insurance status.

See where you or a loved one can find a vaccine appointment at [covid19.nj.gov/finder](https://covid19.nj.gov/finder). If you need transportation to your appointment, visit [nj211.org](https://nj211.org).

## **CONTINUE TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS:**

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

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