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| **COVID-19 Vaccine**  **Questions and Answers** |

1. **Why should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?** People who get COVID-19 can have serious illnesses, and people can develop different symptoms that can last for months. By getting vaccinated, you can also help protect your loved ones and your community.
2. **Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine? *No.*** None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use or in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. However, it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it’s possible you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. Having the vaccine may keep you from getting very sick.
3. **If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated? *Yes.*** The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that you get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19 because you can catch it more than once. Even if you developed some immunity against COVID-19, we don’t know how long this protection will last. ***Check with your healthcare provider for more information.***
4. **Is it better to get natural immunity to COVID-19 rather than immunity from a vaccine? *No.*** While you may have some short-term antibody protection after recovering from COVID-19, we don’t know how long this protection lasts. Vaccination is the best protection and it is safe.
5. **Can my child get vaccinated for COVID-19?** At this time, COVID-19 vaccines are not recommended for children younger than age 16.
6. **Are the vaccines safe for pregnant women? *Pregnant women should consult with your health care provider to make a decision about the vaccine****.* At this time, here is limited data available about the effect on pregnant women.
7. **Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have other medical condition(s)? *Yes.*** COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying health problems like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and/or obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.
8. **Will the shot hurt or make me sick?** You may not notice any changes in how you feel after getting the shot, but it’s also possible to feel a little “under the weather.” This can happen after any vaccine. After the COVID-19 vaccine, you may have pain in the arm where you got the shot, a headache, chills, fever, and/or tiredness. Over the counter pain relievers and fever reducers may help relieve these symptoms. If you still don’t feel well after two or three days, contact your healthcare provider.
9. **If I get a COVID-19 vaccine, do I still need to wear a mask and social distance? *Yes.*** Wearing a mask, practicing social distancing and good hand hygiene will still be important. It will take time for vaccinations to be distributed to the majority of people and for experts to know how long immunity lasts after vaccination.
10. **How do I know if COVID-19 vaccine is safe?** All COVID-19 vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults from different backgrounds. There were no serious safety concerns. The CDC and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will continue to monitor the vaccines for safety issues as they are authorized for use.
11. **How do I report problems or bad reactions after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?** When vaccinated, everyone is required to stay 15 to 30 minutes so healthcare providers can monitor people for any problems or reactions. Contact your healthcare provider if you have any problems or bad reactions after you return home.

**How do I sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine in New York State?**

The distribution of the approved vaccines is based on guidance from the CDC and priorities in each state. In New York State (NYS), your options include contacting your healthcare provider, the county health department, and using the NYS Department of Health.

How to use the NYS Department of Health website at <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>

* In the top, right corner, you can change the language from English to Spanish.
* Select **[Get Started]** at the bottom of the page.
* Enter information about who you are and where you live.
* Answer some yes or no questions that determine if you are eligible yet.
* If you are eligible, you will be given options about finding the vaccine sites that are closest to you.
* Finally, it will give you the option to schedule an appointment or to wait and call a vaccine site on your own.

This Question and Answer sheet is based on information available on January 25, 2021 from the resources below. **Check with your healthcare provider, county health department, or the NYS Department of Health website for the most current information.**

* New York State Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine site - <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>
* United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention
* *English* ***-*** <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>
* Sullivan County Public Health - <https://sullivanny.us/Departments/Publichealth/Coronavirus>
* Finger Lakes Community Health - <https://localcommunityhealth.com/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/#covidfaqs>