COVID-19 Vaccines are Safe and Effective

Californians have made extraordinary sacrifices to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Help is on the way as the state begins its rollout of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines.

- California has its own Scientific Safety Review Workgroup comprised of immunization, public health, academic and other experts who are vetting vaccine safety.
- The Moderna vaccine is approved for those 18 years and older, consists of two doses given 28 days apart, and is 94 percent effective against COVID-19.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is approved for those 16 years and older, consists of two doses given 21 days apart, and is 95 percent effective against COVID-19
- Sometimes vaccination can cause a sore arm, aches, fatigue or fever for a few days after getting the vaccine, but these are not harmful.
- Vaccinated individuals should keep wearing masks, washing hands and watching their distance until the vaccine has been widely distributed.

How do we know COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe?

COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trials to make sure they meet safety standards. No safety step was skipped. Every COVID-19 vaccine went through the same careful and detailed stages of testing in people that other vaccines do: Phase 1 (small group of volunteers), Phase 2 (hundreds of volunteers), and Phase 3 (tens of thousands of volunteers and a placebo group). Volunteers in these trials were chosen to include people of different ages, races, and ethnicities, as well as those with pre-existing medical conditions, to see how the vaccines protect a variety of people.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine give me the disease?

No. COVID-19 vaccine will not give you COVID-19 disease. If you feel ill after being vaccinated, that is because your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to be doing responding to the vaccine and creating your body's immune response. Also, remember that you will need 2 doses for best protection.

Could I test positive for COVID-19 after being vaccinated?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines being tested in the U.S. will cause you to test positive on a COVID-19 viral test, which checks to see if you have a current infection.

What about allergic reactions?

There have been a few reports of allergic (anaphylactic) reactions to the vaccine. These reactions are very rare. If you have allergies to things such as food, dander, dust, grass, latex, or oral medications, there are currently no concerns with getting COVID-19 vaccine. If you have a history of severe allergic reaction (such as anaphylaxis) to any vaccine or injectable therapy, talk to your provider before getting vaccinated.

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