



Quick COVID-19 Vaccine Talking Points

Remember to share personal stories about how you or your family got vaccinated. Keep answers simple and clear. To help normalize, post about COVID-19 vaccines in your care spaces. Please consider vaccinating your patient's family members too!

Are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine dangerous?

There can be side effects, but the vast majority are very short term and not serious or dangerous. Some people experience pain at the injection site; body aches; headaches or fever, lasting for a day or two. These are signs that the vaccine is working to stimulate the immune system. *For non-patients:* if you have allergies, discuss how to get vaccinated with your doctor.

What about Myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccination?

Myocarditis is an extremely rare side effect, and only a very small number of people will experience it after vaccination. For the young people who do, most cases are mild, and individuals recover often on their own or with minimal treatment. Also, we know that myocarditis is much more common *if you get COVID-19*.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine affect women's fertility?

The COVID-19 vaccine will not affect fertility. The COVID-19 vaccine encourages the body to create copies of the spike protein found on the coronavirus's surface. This "teaches" the body's immune system to fight the virus that has that specific spike protein on it. Incorrect reports surfaced on social media saying that the spike protein on this coronavirus was the same as another spike protein called syncytin-1 that is involved in the growth and attachment of the placenta during pregnancy. This is not the same protein. Getting COVID-19 can have a potentially serious impact on pregnancy and a mother's health.

Do I need the vaccine if I have had COVID-19 already?

Yes. Re-infection with COVID-19 is possible. Vaccination protects you from getting seriously ill and dying from COVID-19. *Note:* People with COVID-19 who have symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have met the CDC's criteria for discontinuing isolation (those without symptoms should also wait until they meet the criteria). This also applies to people who get COVID-19 before their second dose. If someone was treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, they should wait 90 days before vaccination.

If you or your child has a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults or children (MIS-A or MIS-C), consider delaying vaccination until you or your child have recovered from being sick and for 90 days after the date of diagnosis of MIS-A or MIS-C.

Can my child get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No. The vaccine for COVID-19 cannot and will not give someone COVID-19. The mRNA vaccines instruct cells to imitate parts of the virus, which helps the body recognize and fight the virus, if it comes along. The vaccine does not contain the COVID-19 virus, so someone cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

Why does my child need the vaccine if COVID-19 is not as dangerous for children?

Though death among children is lower than for adults, the death rate is still a problem. Children aren't supposed to die at the same rate as adults, and if you look at the number of deaths that have been seen in children under 18, COVID-19 ranks in the top 10 causes for 2020.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine shed to other family members?

No. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened version of the virus. Since the vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. do not contain a live virus, they cannot shed.

Why was the COVID-19 vaccine developed so quickly? Wasn't it too quick?

The COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna were created with a method that had been in development for years, so the companies could start the vaccine development process early in the pandemic.

- Studies and development were well-funded, so they could move quicker.
- Because COVID-19 is so contagious and widespread, it did not take long to see if the vaccine worked for the study volunteers who were vaccinated.
- The vaccine developers didn't skip any testing steps but conducted some of the steps on an overlapping schedule to gather data faster.

Are there harmful ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. COVID-19 vaccines were not developed using fetal tissue and do not contain implants, microchips or tracking devices. COVID-19 vaccines do not have any ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my child's DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with DNA in any way. COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where DNA is kept.

What is Comirnaty?

Comirnaty is the new name for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

What went into full FDA approval?

More analysis of the vaccine's effectiveness and safety data from tens of thousands of clinical trial participants, as well as the analysis of real-world safety data.

What is the age of approval for the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters?

The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for use in individuals 16 and older as a two-dose regimen. The EUA is still in effect, as are the CDC recommendations, for adolescents 12-15 to get vaccinated and for certain immunocompromised people to get a booster dose.

What about Moderna and Johnson & Johnson?

The vaccines will continue to be safely administered through EUA as the FDA reviews data about their real-world use. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was the first vaccine to receive EUA, which is why it is the first to have enough data to receive full approval. Moderna has also submitted an application for full approval of its COVID-19 vaccine, and the FDA is currently reviewing that data.