

Discussing COVID-19 Vaccination Concerns

Why should I get vaccinated if I can still get COVID-19?

The vaccines protect against severe illness and death. Even though vaccinated people are getting COVID-19 with the more contagious delta variant, they have milder and shorter illnesses and are much less likely to be hospitalized or die. When someone has been vaccinated but still gets COVID-19, this is commonly referred to as a breakthrough infection.

The vaccines were created so quickly.

It may seem like the vaccines were developed quickly, but it is important to know that they were not rushed. Around the world, tons of experts and resources came together like never before to get the vaccines made. In addition, researchers have been studying and working with mRNA vaccines for decades.

I'm worried about the side effects from the vaccines.

No one likes to feel sick, but side effects from vaccines do not last long and are not harmful. The likelihood of a significant medical reaction is extremely low. Mostly people have a sore arm or have mild aches, fatigue or fevers for a day or two. However, getting COVID-19 can make you seriously sick for weeks or months and possibly cause lasting damage (long-COVID).

I'm worried about the safety of these vaccines.

The FDA approves a vaccine for use only if it is proven safe and effective, after clinical trials with thousands of people, and when its benefits outweigh any risks. These vaccines continue to go through the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. There are systems in place to quickly find any problems and take action. This is how a less than 2-in-a-million risk of a blood clotting disorder associated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was found. The nation's safety monitoring system for COVID-19 vaccines works. The pause in the use of the J&J vaccine allowed scientists to evaluate each case of the clotting disorder. They determined that the level of risk was very low and that the benefits of the J&J vaccine greatly outweigh any risks.

More than 150,000 people participated in U.S. clinical trials of the vaccines, and now 71% of people aged 12+ in the U.S. have had at least one dose.

The FDA fully approved the Pfizer vaccine on August 23, 2021.



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August 24, 2021

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What about long-term problems from receiving these vaccinations?

Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following any vaccination. Vaccine monitoring has shown that side effects generally happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine. While some individuals have experienced clots and organ inflammation, these health issues happen much more often with COVID-19 infection than with COVID vaccination.

Vaccine ingredients are not made to stay in your body. They do not enter or change your DNA. The ingredients only exist for a short period of time in order to get your immune system working. Then, they quickly and easily fade away, but your body's immune system remembers what it saw. If your immune system comes across the virus, a strong immune response kicks in to prevent or decrease the seriousness of infection.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility or fertility issues?

No. There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines do not enter or change your DNA.

What about my natural immunity?

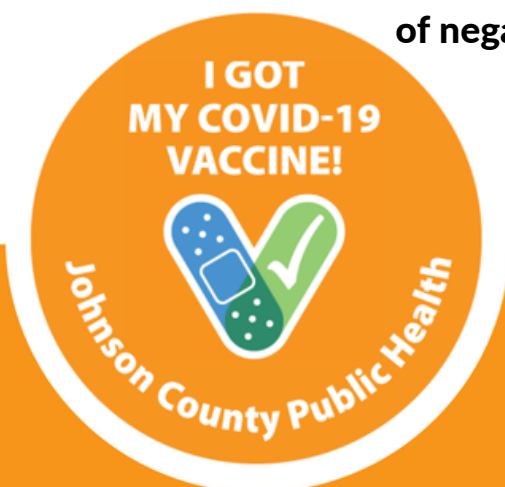
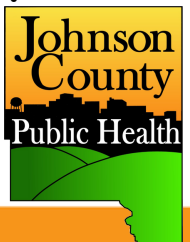
Current evidence suggests that reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after first being infected. Not enough is known about how long immunity from natural COVID-19 illness might last. For that reason, even if you have already been infected, vaccination is an important step to protect yourself and those around you.

I'm healthy and don't need the vaccines.

Eating healthy and exercising are very important to maintain health, but they are not a replacement for vaccines. This virus does not only target the old and the ill. Healthy individuals can get severely ill and even die.

**The threat of COVID-19 is real and urgent, and the benefits of getting vaccinated far outweigh any risks.
The risk of severe problems after any COVID-19 vaccination remains very low, and far lower than the risk of negative health outcomes from contracting COVID-19.**

Talk to your health care provider, pharmacist, your family and friends about your concerns.



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