

COVID-19 VACCINE FACT SHEET for College & University Students



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VACCINE SAFETY

Orange County residents and workers have made tremendous progress in helping slow the spread of COVID-19 – but more must be done to keep you and others healthy, including vaccinations.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective and millions of people in the U.S. have been vaccinated under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

After you've been fully vaccinated, you can start to do some things that you had to stop doing because of the pandemic, according to what your school allows. California has its own Scientific Safety Review Workgroup comprised of immunization, public health, academic and other experts who are vetting vaccine safety. The Scientific Safety Review Workgroup has confirmed that all currently approved vaccines have met high standards for safety and efficacy.

PREPARING YOU FOR IMMUNITY

Getting vaccinated is our best protection against COVID-19. Some people have no side effects after receiving COVID-19 vaccination. Others have reported temporary side effects such as soreness in the arm, fever, tiredness and chills. Some people confuse these side effects with COVID-19 infection. However, this is just the vaccine teaching your body how to fight the virus.

A small number of people have had a severe allergic reaction (called "anaphylaxis") after vaccination, but

this is very rare. Serious side effects that would cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following COVID-19 vaccination.

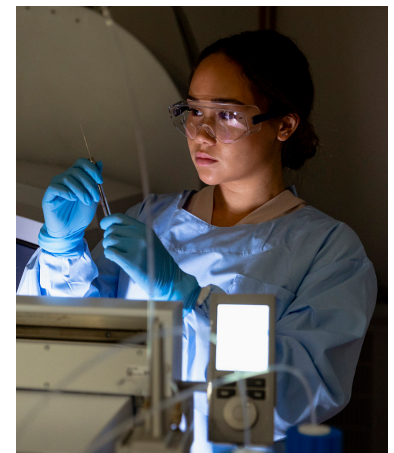
Vaccine monitoring has historically shown that if side effects occur, they generally happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine dose. For this reason, the Food and Drug Administration required each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines to be studied for at least two months (eight weeks) after the final dose. Millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines, and no long-term side effects have been detected.

AFTER YOUR VACCINATION

Even after being vaccinated against COVID-19, you are encouraged to continue:

- Frequently washing your hands for 20 seconds with soap
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of the elbow
- Wearing a face covering, and
- Practicing physical distancing away from home.

Be sure to check with your own college or university, as each school may have specific guidelines pertaining to living, learning and working on campus.



96% PFIZER EFFECTIVENESS
FOR AGES 16-65

96% MODERNA EFFECTIVENESS
FOR AGES 18-65

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs for College & University Students



Should I get vaccinated for 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. Being vaccinated is important not only for the protection it provides you, but the protection it provides to those around you, 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.

How do I know if the COVID-19 vaccine is safe? All COVID-19 vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards and protect adults of different ages, races, and ethnicities. There were no serious safety concerns. These trials were very similar to trials done for other licensed vaccines but were done more quickly due to the urgent need to reduce illnesses during the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will keep monitoring the vaccines to look for safety issues after they are authorized and in use.

How well do the vaccines work? The vaccines protected well across all ages of adults studied. Pfizer—Ages 16 to 55: 96% efficacy, over age 55: 94% efficacy. Moderna—Ages 18 to 65: 96% efficacy, over age 65: 86% efficacy.* The Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine's level of protection against moderate to severe COVID-19 infection was 66% across all regions studied and 72% in the United States. *The difference between the efficacy of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in older adults may be due to the cut-off age for the trial.

Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA? No. The vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

Can the vaccine give me COVID-19? COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. Having symptoms like fever after you get a vaccine is normal and a sign your immune system is learning to fight the virus.

Is it better to get natural immunity to COVID-19 rather than immunity from a vaccine? No. COVID-19 is new and so are the vaccines to prevent it. We don't know how long protection lasts for those who get infected or for those who are vaccinated. We do know that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. Learn why getting vaccinated is safer to build protection than getting infected by visiting www.cdc.gov/coronavirus and searching "Benefits."

Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have an underlying medical condition? Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick and/or hospitalized from COVID-19.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day? There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

I am pregnant. Is it safe for me to get the COVID-19 vaccine? Based on what we know about how these vaccines work, experts believe they are unlikely to pose a risk for pregnant women. Pregnant women with COVID-19 are also at an increased risk of severe illness. However, there is limited information about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines during pregnancy. You may choose to get vaccinated if you are part of a group that is recommended for COVID-19 vaccine. A conversation between the patient and their clinical team may assist with this decision, though a conversation with a healthcare provider is not required before vaccination.

If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated against COVID-19? Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Current evidence shows that the risk of COVID-19 reinfection is low in the months after initial infection. While vaccine supply remains limited, people with recent documented acute COVID-19 infection may choose to defer vaccination after their illness for at least 90 days.

COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic. Wearing masks and physical distancing help lower the risk of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. The combination of getting vaccinated and following the CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. Learn about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination so you'll be ready when a vaccine is recommended: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>.

For more information, visit: covidvaccinefacts.com