

Questions about the COVID-19 vaccines?



Safety, side effects and more.

Before you get a COVID-19 vaccine, it's important to have your questions answered. Find answers about safety and how the vaccines work to protect our communities.

What are the COVID-19 vaccines and how do they work?

Like all vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccines teach your body to fight the virus and protect you from getting sick. The vaccines are given as a shot to your arm. For some vaccine options, you will need to get more than one shot. Your second shot will be 3 or 4 weeks after your first. If you get this type of vaccine, it is important to get both shots for the vaccine to work.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. All of the COVID-19 vaccines being given in Oregon are safe for everyone, even if you're pregnant. The vaccines have been tested with thousands of people around the world. Black, Indigenous, Latino/a and people of color have chosen to be part of these research studies to make sure the vaccines are safe for our communities. We know they are safe and work very well to keep people from getting sick with COVID-19.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccines?

No, you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccines. None of the vaccines contain the live COVID-19 virus, so you can't get COVID-19 from them.

Are there any side effects?

Some people have mild side effects, like a fever or tiredness. This is normal and doesn't mean you are sick. This means the vaccine is working to keep your body healthy. Your arm may feel sore where you got the shot.

Do I need to keep wearing a mask after getting the vaccine?

Yes. Until everyone is vaccinated, it's safest to keep wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart and keeping groups small even after you get the vaccine, to make sure we are all protected.

Do I have to pay for the vaccine?

No, the vaccines are free for everyone, even if you don't have health insurance.

Do I have to be a U.S. Citizen to get the vaccine?

No. Everyone can get the COVID-19 vaccine, no matter your immigration status. You may be asked for your name and phone number when you get the vaccine, but that information is private. It is important for everyone who lives in Oregon to get the vaccine.

What is herd immunity?

You may hear people talk about "herd immunity" or "community immunity." When you get the COVID-19 vaccine, your body can fight the virus. This is called "immunity." Community immunity happens when enough people have gotten the vaccines to stop the spread of the virus, protecting the whole community.

Where can I learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines?

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines, visit SafeStrongOregon.org