

**Q: IS THE VACCINE SAFE?**

**A:** COVID vaccines are safe and effective. COVID vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines meet the Food and Drug Administration's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality needed to support to the emergency use authorization (EUA). Millions of people in the United States have received the COVID-19 vaccines since they were authorized for emergency use by FDA. These vaccines have undergone and will continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. Just recently the Pfizer vaccine received full approval from the FDA.

**Q: WHAT IS "OPERATION WARP SPEED" AND HOW WERE VACCINES DEVELOPED SO QUICKLY?**

**A:** The federal government, through Operation Warp Speed (OWS), has been working since the start of the pandemic to make a COVID-19 vaccine available. This accelerated timeline has raised concerns for some that safety may be sacrificed in favor of speed. However, safety remains a top priority. To accelerate vaccine development while maintaining standards for safety and efficacy, OWS selected the most promising vaccine candidates and provided coordinated government support. Rather than eliminating steps from traditional development timelines, steps have proceeded simultaneously, such as starting manufacturing of the vaccine at industrial scale well before the demonstration of vaccine efficacy and safety as happens normally. This increases the financial risk, but not the risk of the vaccines.

Also, researchers have been developing and researching a mRNA vaccine platform for over 10 years. After SARS-CoV-2 was sequenced, it took just a few days to make the mRNA vaccine candidates. The spike protein's genetic code was plugged into preexisting technology with an already working process that had been evaluated for other vaccine uses, such as in the fight against dengue.



**WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS IN THE COVID-19 VACCINE?**

**PFIZER-BIONTECH (mRNA) ✓**

Nucleoside-modified mRNA encoding the viral spike (S) glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2

2[(polyethylene glycol(PEG))-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide

1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine

Cholesterol

(4-hydroxybutyl)azanediyl)bis(hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate)

Sodium chloride

Monobasic potassium phosphate

Potassium chloride

Dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate

Sucrose

**MODERNA (mRNA) ✓**

Nucleoside-modified mRNA encoding the viral spike (S) glycoprotein of SARS-CoV-2

PEG2000-DMG: 1,2-dimyristoyl-rac-glycerol, methoxypolyethylene glycol

1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine

Cholesterol

SM-102: heptadecan-9-yl 8-((2-hydroxyethyl) (6-oxo-6-(undecyloxy) hexyl) amino) octanoate

Tromethamine

Tromethamine hydrochloride

Acetic acid

Sodium acetate

Sucrose

**JANSSEN (VIRAL VECTOR) ✓**

Recombinant, replication-incompetent Ad26 vector, encoding a stabilized variant of the SARS-CoV-2 Spike (S) protein

Polysorbate-80

2-hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin

Citric acid monohydrate

Trisodium citrate dihydrate

Sodium chloride

Ethanol

\* None of the vaccines contain eggs, gelatin, latex, or preservatives. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals such as iron, nickel, cobalt, lithium, rare earth alloys or any manufactured products such as microelectronics, electrodes, carbon nanotubes, or nanowire semiconductors.

**Q: ARE THERE FERTILITY-RELATED CONCERNS REGARDING COVID-19 VACCINES?**

**A:** A concern was widely circulated through social media regarding the potential that the vaccine could cause infertility. There has been no evidence substantiating this concern, and there has been specific information disproving it, but unfortunately the concern has continued to be spread via social media. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the CDC and other scientific sources are great resources to use if you have further questions regarding the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine .

<https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care>

**Q: WHAT IF AM PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING, SHOULD I GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?**

**A:** Yes, COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the CDC have state that getting the vaccine while breastfeeding is safe, and no harm has been observed in newborns. In fact, the baby may get some protection from the breast milk, as can occur with other antibodies from the mother. You might want to have a conversation with your healthcare provider about COVID-19 vaccination. While such a conversation might be helpful, it is not required before vaccination.

**Q: IF I HAVE ALREADY HAD COVID-19 AND RECOVERED DO I STILL NEED TO BE VACCINATED?**

**A:** Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 because:

- Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you recover from COVID-19.
- Vaccination helps protect you even if you've already had COVID-19.

Evidence is emerging that people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19. One study showed that unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are more than 2 times as likely than fully vaccinated people to get COVID-19 again. If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q: WHAT IS THE RECOMMENDATION FOR PERSONS WITH AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE?**

**A:** The American College of Rheumatology recommends that patients with autoimmune disorders receive the COVID vaccine. The risk/benefit regarding the disease versus the vaccine has shown that a patient with an autoimmune disease should not forgo the vaccine.

**Q: DO THE VACCINES USE ABORTED FETAL CELLS?**

**A:** No, the COVID-19 vaccines do NOT contain any aborted fetal cells. However, fetal cell lines – cells grown in a laboratory based on aborted fetal cells collected generations ago – were used in testing during research and development of the mRNA vaccines, and during production of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Pfizer and Moderna did perform confirmation tests (to ensure the vaccines work) using fetal cell lines. And Johnson & Johnson uses fetal cell lines in vaccine development, confirmation, and production. But it's very important to have the full context: Fetal cell lines are not the same as fetal tissue.

Fetal cell lines are cells that grow in a laboratory. They descend from cells taken from abortions in the 1970s and 1980s. Those individual cells from the 1970s and 1980s have since multiplied into many new cells over the past four or five decades, creating the fetal cell lines. Current fetal cell lines are thousands of generations removed from the original fetal tissue. They do not contain any tissue from a fetus.

**Q: CAN THE COVID-19 VACCINE ENTER YOUR CELLS AND CHANGE YOUR DNA?**

**A:** No. the COVID-19 vaccines are designed to help your body's immune system fight the coronavirus. The messenger RNA from the two of the first type of COVID vaccines does enter cells, but not the nucleus of the cells where DNA resides. The mRNA does its job to cause the cell to make protein to stimulate the immune system, and then it quickly breaks down, without affecting your DNA.

**Q: DO COVID-19 CONTAIN MICROCHIPS?**

**A:** No, COVID-19 vaccines do not contain microchips. Vaccines are developed to fight against disease and are not administered to track your movement. Vaccines work by stimulating your immune system to produce antibodies, exactly like it would if you were exposed to the disease. After getting vaccinated you develop immunity to that disease, without having to get the disease first.

**Q: DO ANY OF THE COVID-19 VACCINES FOR USE IN THE UNITED STATE SHED OR RELEASE ANY OF THEIR COMPONENTS?**

**A:** No. Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened version of the virus. None of the vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain a live virus. mRNA and viral vector vaccines are the two types of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines available.

**Q: CAN AN RECEIVING A COVID-19 VACCINE CAUSE YOU TO BE MAGNETIC?**

**A:** No. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine will not make you magnetic, including at the site of vaccination which is usually your arm. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field at the site of your injection. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals. Refer to ingredients list for COVID-19 vaccines.