

Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 Vaccines

Are COVID-19 vaccines effective?

Yes, they are. All vaccines approved in the USA are >85% effective at preventing severe COVID infections and 100% effective at preventing death from COVID.

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. Millions of people have been vaccinated and there is no consistent pattern of serious or unexpected adverse events. Some people may be concerned that the vaccines were developed too quickly. However, no corners were cut and they were all rigorously tested on tens of thousands of health volunteers of different ages, genders, races, and ethnicities.

Severe allergic reactions occur in 2-5 cases per million people vaccinated. That is compared to the risk of a severe allergic reaction to the commonly prescribed medication penicillin which is 1 per 10,000.

Are there side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine?

Expected side effects are mild and include pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, and fever. Any symptom that is severe or that persists should be evaluated by a health care provider.

Who all can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Currently in California everyone 12 years of age and older is eligible for the vaccine. You can get the vaccine whether or not you have health insurance and there is no cost to receive the vaccine. It doesn't matter if you have documents or not, or if you are a resident or not.

Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine will protect you, your family, and your community from getting severely ill and dying from COVID, especially the most vulnerable people.

Pope Francis took the vaccine and he believes that getting vaccinated is an act of charity and a way of showing love for your neighbor.

Also, after you get vaccinated you can safely return to doing many of the things you enjoyed doing before the pandemic started without worrying about getting sick and dying from COVID or infecting someone else that you love, particularly your elderly friends and family. Also, many places are now requiring proof of vaccination such as schools and sporting events.

Is it morally acceptable for Roman Catholics to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. All the COVID-19 vaccines being used in the US are morally permissible and can be used in good conscience according to the Vatican, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the California Catholic Conference.

Visit cacatholic.org/coronavirus for complete information, including links to the moral and ethical analysis.

Where do I sign up for the vaccine?

You can contact your local health department or you can go to myturn.ca.gov.

