

Frequently Asked Questions

about the COVID-19 vaccines



The Pfizer & Moderna COVID-19 vaccines are **proven safe and effective.**

Should I get a COVID-19 vaccine even if I don't have COVID-19?

- Yes. Similar to a flu shot, the vaccine will help **prevent** you from getting sick with COVID-19.

Can the vaccines give me COVID-19?

- No. It is impossible for you to get sick with COVID-19 from the vaccine itself.

When and where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- State and County Departments of Health determine who will receive the vaccine and when. In general, healthcare workers, people over a certain age and essential workers will be among the first to receive the vaccine.
- Your care team will let you know when, where, and how to get the vaccine when it is available to you.

Will DaVita force me to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

- No. As a high risk individual, we recommend you get the vaccine, but it is **your choice.**

I have heard other vaccines are being tested. Can I wait to get one of those instead?

- The best vaccine is the one you can get the soonest! Authorizing vaccines takes time and availability varies widely. We **do not** recommend passing up a chance to be vaccinated as there is no guarantee a specific vaccine will be available to you.

How do the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines work?

- Vaccines tell your body to recognize COVID-19 so if you come into contact with the virus, your immune system knows to destroy it to keep you healthy.
- Think of a vaccine like a wanted poster that helps your body see what the bad guy looks like, so if faced with the virus, your body is prepared to stop it **before** you get sick.
- Your body breaks down the vaccine naturally.



Do the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines contain any toxic chemicals?

- No. There are **no toxic chemicals in the vaccines**. They are made of mRNA, which is a harmless piece of protein made to look like COVID-19, but it is not the actual virus.
- The vaccines only use products that occur in nature.

How many doses of the vaccines are needed to be effective?

- The vaccines requires two doses, approximately 21-28 days apart. **You need both doses**.
- You may not be fully protected against COVID-19 until seven days after the second dose.



What side effects can I expect after receiving the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine?

- Both vaccines may result in mild side effects, such as pain at the injection site and feeling tired, which are normal and expected with vaccination.

Can dialysis patients safely receive the vaccines? What if I am on the transplant list?

- Yes, both vaccines are safe for dialysis patients and patients on the transplant list.

What if I have a weakened immune system because of other health conditions or because I have received a transplant?

- The vaccines are safe and were tested on patients like you.
- While there is no safety risk to getting the vaccine, the vaccine's effectiveness in your body is not yet known. Because your body is less capable of building immunity, we recommend you talk with your doctor before receiving the vaccine.

Will the vaccines impact my DNA or my genetic code?

- No. This vaccine does not impact your DNA or your genetic code.

Should I get the vaccine if I have had COVID-19?

- Yes. We recommend getting the vaccine to continue to protect your body from getting sick. You can get the vaccine as soon as you have recovered from COVID-19.

Who should NOT get a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Talk to your doctor if you have had an allergic reaction to a vaccine or other medication before.



Many of DaVita's care team members and physicians have already been vaccinated. We are so confident the vaccine is safe and effective we're getting it ourselves. Our goal is to help keep you as safe and healthy as possible!