



June 3rd, 2021



**PARKDALE
QUEEN WEST**
Community
Health Centre

Covid-19

Vaccine

FAQs



You've got questions, we've got answers.

We understand that there's a lot of misinformation when it comes to getting vaccinated, and so we're here to help! We've done our research, and we know that the top doctors, scientists, and medical experts in our country all agree: **Vaccines are a safe and effective way to help protect yourself and stop the spread of Covid 19.**

In this document you'll find the most frequently asked questions surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccination process, and we've answered them using information gathered from the John Hopkins Medicine, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Canada Health websites.



Do the COVID-19 vaccines work?

Yes.

Based on clinical trials, the first two vaccines were shown to be extremely effective at preventing COVID-19: Pfizer (95%) and Moderna (94.1%). The trials so far show the vaccines are equally effective across age, gender, race and ethnicity subgroups.

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How Do the Vaccines work?

There are three main types of COVID-19 vaccines: messenger RNA (mRNA), protein subunit and vector. All three vaccine types either deliver, or cause our bodies to make, harmless proteins only found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. After we are vaccinated, our immune system recognizes these proteins as foreign, and it attacks and blocks the virus if we get exposed to it.





Can the COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No.

None of the authorised and recommended COVID-19 vaccines or COVID-19 vaccines currently in development contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.



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After getting vaccinated, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?



No.

None of the authorised COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection. If your body develops an immune response to vaccination, which is the goal, you may test positive on some antibody tests which indicates that you may have protection against the virus.

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Is it safe to get the COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?

Yes.

There is currently no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.



Will the COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

No.

COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. The COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the genetic material in the vaccines cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way.





After getting vaccinated, will I be immune to COVID-19 right away?

No.

It typically takes two weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus just before or just after vaccination and still get sick.





Will I experience any side effects after taking the COVID-19 vaccine?

Potentially.

Some people may experience mild side effects after getting the vaccine. These side effects include: pain, redness, swelling and/or tenderness in the shot area, fatigue, headache, muscle and/or joint pain, chills, nausea or fever.



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What should I do if I experience side effects from the vaccine?

We recommend setting aside the following 24 hours after your vaccination for a rest period in the event you do experience any symptoms. Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the shot area, and lightly exercise your arm. Additionally, drink plenty of fluids and dress lightly to reduce any fever discomfort. Contact your doctor or healthcare provider if side effects do not go away after a few days, or if you are worried.

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Do I still have to wear a mask and avoid groups after I get vaccinated?

Yes.

It is important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to stop the spread of COVID-19. Even after you are fully vaccinated, you should continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, maintain social distancing guidelines, and avoid group settings.





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For more up-to-date
information, please
visit **The Government
of Ontario Website**



covid-19.ontario.ca