



COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions

Was the vaccine rolled out too soon and less safe than other vaccines?

No. Viruses similar to COVID-19 have been studied for over 15 years. Scientists were ready to work fast to get the vaccines into production. While the process was faster, these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.

Will the vaccine change my DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Vaccines work with your body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to virus. The ingredient mRNA is called messenger RNA, which is not related to your DNA.

Does the vaccine have a microchip to track me?

No, the vaccine is composed of mRNA, lipids, salts and sugar. The syringe or boxes may have barcodes but those are used for manufacturing purposes.

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

No. Each approved COVID-19 vaccine is designed to make your body think you have the virus, but cannot give you COVID-19. Symptoms after vaccination are normal and a sign that the body is learning to fight against COVID-19.

If I have already had COVID-19, do I still need a vaccine?

Yes. Because you can be re-infected with COVID-19, you should still get vaccinated. Experts don't know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19.

Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I want a baby one day?

Yes. People who want to get pregnant in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine. There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Does the vaccine have severe side effects, such as allergic reactions?

All vaccines can have side effects. The COVID vaccine could produce side effects like pain at the injection site, and other mild symptoms. Everyone should be monitored on site after the vaccine. People who have had severe allergic reactions to vaccines will be monitored for at least 30 minutes.

I already had COVID -19. Do I still need to be vaccinated?

Yes, vaccines protect against reinfection. Unvaccinated people who were previously infected with the virus are twice as likely to be re-infected than those who were fully vaccinated after contracting the virus. Vaccines offer better protection than natural immunity alone.

Does the vaccine protect against the Delta variant?

The COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant. 99.9% of fully vaccinated people will be safe from the Delta variant. The vaccine still provides the strongest protection against serious illness and death.

Can I get signed up or in line for a vaccine in Sangamon County?

You can visit Sangamon County Department of Public Health's website at [scdph.org](https://www.scdph.org). If you prefer to call, you can call for an appointment at **217-321-2606**.

