

MODERNA VACCINE FAQS

Does the Moderna vaccine work? How effective is it?

The vaccine was 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19 disease among clinical trial participants. There was a total of 196 cases of COVID-19 among the 28,207 participants: 185 in the group that did not receive the vaccine (placebo) and only 11 cases in the group that did receive the vaccine.

Of the 196 cases of COVID-19, none of the 11 cases in the Moderna vaccine group were considered severe. For comparison, 30 cases of the placebo group were considered to have severe cases of COVID-19.

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Is the Moderna vaccine safe?

Yes! Over 28,000 people participated in the Moderna vaccine clinical trials. One group received the Moderna vaccine and were compared to a second group of people who did not receive the vaccine. Both groups were followed for approximately two months after receiving the second dose.

There were no serious or life-threatening events in either group. The most commonly reported side effects of the vaccine were pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever. These side effects were generally mild and went away on their own in around a day.

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How long does the vaccine last? Will I need to get the vaccine every year, like the flu shot?

We don't yet know how long protection from the vaccine will last, but this is being studied.

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Can I get COVID-19 from the Moderna vaccine?

No. The vaccine does not contain the virus, and it cannot give you COVID-19.

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How will I feel after getting the Moderna vaccine? Are there any side effects?

The most commonly reported side effects were fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, and fever. These side effects were generally mild and went away on their own in around a day.

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Who can get the Moderna vaccine?

Because there is only a limited amount of vaccine available, people who are the most at risk of infection will be given the vaccine first. As more vaccine becomes available, more people will be able to receive the vaccine based on their risk levels and other factors. As of January 2021 in Georgia, we are in Tier 1A distribution. This means healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities are eligible to receive the vaccine, as well as first responders and adults 65 and older.

To learn about how groups are prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html>

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Is there anyone who shouldn't get the Moderna vaccine?

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is for people 18 years of age and older. You should not get the vaccine(s) if you have had a severe allergic reaction to any of the vaccine ingredients or to a previous dose of the vaccine.

With any vaccine, it is important to talk to your healthcare provider about any medical conditions you have and any medications you take. Be sure to tell your provider if you:

- Have allergies
- Have a fever
- Have a bleeding disorder
- Take a blood thinner
- Are immunocompromised
- Take a medicine that affects your immune system
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- Are breastfeeding
- Have received another COVID-19 vaccine

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How does the Moderna vaccine work? Can it change my DNA?

The vaccine is given in two doses, several weeks apart. The mRNA vaccine gives instructions for our cells to make harmless copies of the virus' spike protein, which triggers the immune system to defend itself by producing antibodies.

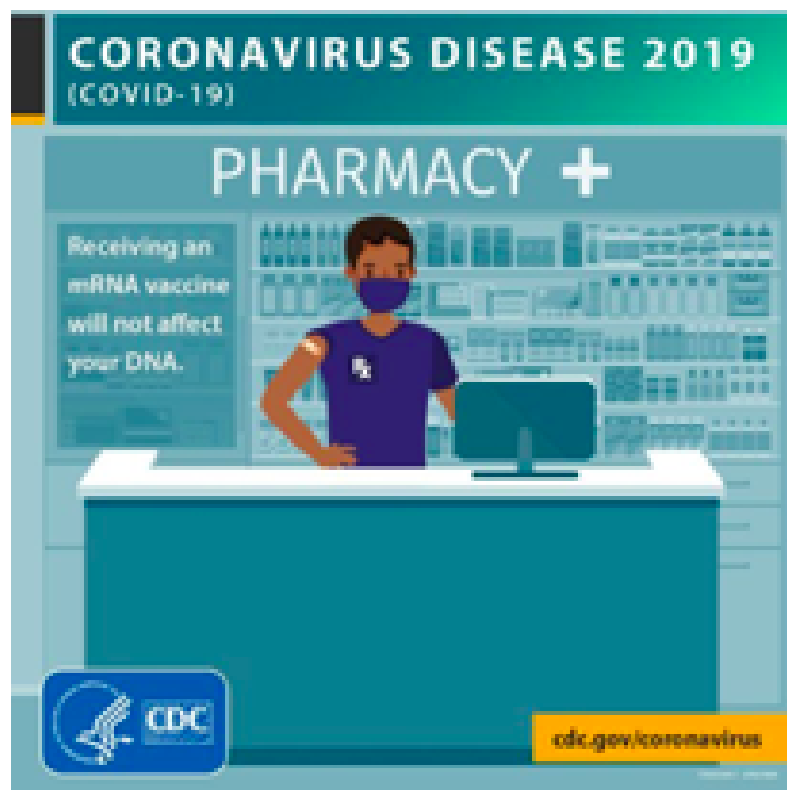
The Moderna vaccine does not affect or interact with your DNA in any way. mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where DNA (genetic material) is kept. The cell uses the protein instructions, then breaks down and gets rid of them.

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Are mRNA vaccines new?

Although there are currently no licensed mRNA vaccines in the United States, researchers have been studying and working with them for decades. These vaccines can be developed in a laboratory using readily available materials, which allows for large scale vaccine production. Some mRNA vaccines that have been studied include influenza, Zika, rabies, and cytomegalovirus (CMV).

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When can I stop wearing a mask and avoiding close contact with others after I have received the Moderna vaccine?

We do not yet know if the vaccine prevents people from carrying the virus to others, even if they never get sick or show any symptoms themselves. Until more is known, it is still recommended that people continue to wear masks and avoid close contact with those outside of their household.

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I've had COVID-19. Do I need the Moderna vaccine?

We do not know how long after recovering from a COVID-19 infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. Early evidence suggests natural immunity after recovering from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this.

Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before.

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What is an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and how does it apply to the Moderna vaccine?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for ensuring that vaccines undergo rigorous checks of vaccine safety, effectiveness, and quality. An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is a way to make vaccines and other medicines available quickly during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. Under an EUA, the FDA may allow the use of unapproved medical products (or unapproved uses of approved medical products) as long as certain conditions have been met. The conditions for an EUA are:

- A declared emergency due to a serious or life-threatening disease or condition.
- No adequate, approved, and available alternatives exist.
- There is evidence for effectiveness.
- The benefits outweigh the risks.

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Were any steps skipped in the process of testing the Moderna vaccine?

No. Recognizing the urgent need for safe and effective vaccines, the FDA is utilizing its various authorities and expertise to make vaccines available as quickly as possible. Some steps in the authorization process might have occurred simultaneously instead of sequentially, but no steps were skipped. These vaccines must still meet rigorous standards for quality, safety, and effectiveness. Authorized vaccines are carefully evaluated during clinical trials with thousands of participants that take place over several months.

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Has there been a coronavirus vaccine developed before?

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) are two diseases caused by coronaviruses that are closely related to the virus that causes COVID-19. Researchers began working on developing vaccines for these diseases after they were discovered in 2003 and 2012, respectively. None of the SARS vaccines ever made it past the first stages of development and testing, in large part due to lack of interest because the viruses disappeared. One MERS vaccine (MVA-MERS-S) successfully completed a phase 1 clinical trial in 2019. Lessons learned from this earlier vaccine research have been used to inform strategies for developing a COVID-19 vaccine.

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What do I do with my vaccination card after receiving my COVID-19 vaccine?

When you receive your first dose, keep the vaccination card given to you! This card will be needed when you return for your second dosage, regardless of which vaccine you choose to take.

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