



## **COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions**

*Prepared by the ATA Public Health Committee*

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### ➤ **What is the advantage of getting a COVID vaccine?**

- *COVID-19 vaccination is the most effective way to protect yourself against COVID-19 illness. Until enough people get the vaccination, experts recommend continued mask wearing and practicing physical distancing. Even after receiving the vaccine, physical distancing and mask wearing are currently recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).*

### ➤ **What are the vaccines that are currently available and how many doses will I need?**

- *Currently, the only FDA approved vaccines for general use in the US are the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna vaccines, both of which require two doses.*

*For the Pfizer vaccination, the two doses are given about 21 days apart. For the Moderna vaccine, the two doses are given about 28 days apart. Vaccine doses can be delayed if necessary.*

*There are other vaccines that are approved for use in other countries.*

*Please be sure to check with your local health authorities to understand which vaccines are approved and available in your area.*

### ➤ **Should patients with thyroid disease get the vaccine?**

- *People with thyroid conditions, including autoimmune thyroid disease and thyroid cancer, should receive the COVID vaccine if they are medically stable. If you have a history of allergic reactions, you should be aware of special precautions that might be needed.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/managing-anaphylaxis.html> )

➤ **Is it safe for me to have the vaccine with a thyroid condition?**

- *The vaccines in current use have been tested and approved in the US by the FDA. Clinical trials have included thousands of patients, some of whom have had thyroid conditions. Currently there is no evidence that having thyroid disease makes you at higher risk for vaccine-related problems.*

➤ **Should I delay treatment for my thyroid disease until both doses of the vaccine are completed?**

- *No. Even though the vaccines are currently available it is unknown when any particular individual will be getting the vaccine. Therefore, at this time it is not recommended that you delay care until you have been fully vaccinated, but you should discuss your treatment plan with your healthcare provider.*

➤ **If I had COVID and have antibodies should I still be vaccinated?**

- *Yes, public health officials suggest that even those who have contracted COVID-19 should be vaccinated. If you have had COVID-19 illness, talk to your healthcare provider about the timing of your vaccination.*

➤ **Can I get the vaccine if I am pregnant?**

- *The vaccine trials did not include pregnant women, however getting vaccinated while pregnant is a personal choice based on your risks and should be discussed with your providers. You may wish to refer to recommendations from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/vaccinating-pregnant-and-lactating-patients-against-covid-19>*
- *The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has created a resource to help pregnant women determine if they should get a COVID-19 vaccine. [Learn more.](#)*

➤ **If my child has thyroid disease should they be vaccinated?**

- *None of the vaccines available in the U.S. have been approved for use in children less than 16 years old as children were not included in the clinical trials. Only the Pfizer vaccine has been approved in the US for people 16 years of age and older. The Moderna vaccine was approved for people 18 years of age and older.*

➤ **When can I get the vaccine?**

- *Vaccine availability is based on supply and prioritization groups, something that varies state to state. Please refer to information provided by your local or state health department.*

➤ **Where can I get the vaccine?**

- *Please refer to your local or state health authorities to learn more about where you can receive the vaccine.*

➤ **Will I get side effects from the vaccine?**

- *Side effects are uncommon but can occur. The CDC has provided information about these for you to review, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>*
- *Reactions to the vaccines approved in the US are mild and include pain or redness at the injection site and fatigue. Fever and flu-like symptoms are less common. Side effects are more likely to occur after the second dose. These reactions usually resolve within a few days. Symptoms are caused by the body's immune system reaction to the vaccine and are not a sign of COVID illness.*
- *Serious anaphylactic reactions are rare.*

➤ **Can you get COVID from the vaccine?**

- *No. It is not possible to get COVID from the vaccines currently approved for use. Neither of these vaccines contain the virus that causes the disease. Also, these vaccines will not cause you to test positive for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen tests.*

➤ **Please refer to these websites for additional information:**

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [National Health Service \(UK\)](#)
- [Health Canada](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Vaccine Resources](#)
- [US Food & Drug Administration Vaccine Resources](#)