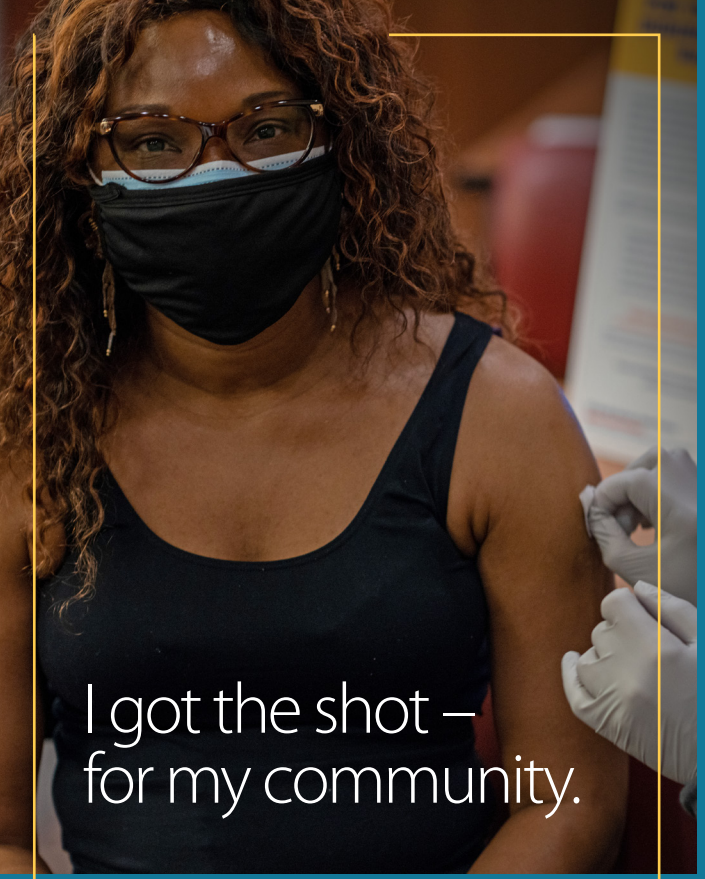

I got the shot – for my community.

"It is important to get the vaccine — especially for those of us from underrepresented minority communities . . . **I put my trust in science to help me make the best decision for me and my family."**

— **Folakemi T. Odedina, PhD**
Professor, UF College of Pharmacy
Professor, UF College of Medicine

Screen. Test. Protect.
UF HEALTH SCREEN, TEST & PROTECT

Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine at Coronavirus.UFHealth.org

Let science — *and your heart* — be your guide.

UF

New Year.
New Hope.
Make every shot count.

Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

UFHealth

How the COVID-19 Vaccine Works

For some people, COVID-19 can be mild. However, it can cause serious complications or death for others — including healthy people. Currently, there is no cure for COVID-19. The vaccine plays an important role in helping to prevent or reduce the effects of COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. Different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection, but with all types of vaccines, the body is left with a supply of "memory" cells that will remember how to fight that virus in the future.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to make antibodies after vaccination. These antibodies are the shields that help prevent COVID-19 and its symptoms from becoming dangerous. It is possible that a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

Prevention is key to helping end the pandemic. Experts say that 75% to 85% of the population needs to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity.

What is Herd Immunity?

When enough people develop immunity to a disease, the disease can't spread in the community. This usually occurs through vaccination. Some people can't get vaccinated due to their health risks or access to health care. It's especially important to protect these people by getting vaccinated. Herd immunity protects all of us.

Sometimes after vaccination, the process of building immunity can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that your body is building immunity against COVID-19.

Side Effects That May Occur

You might experience some side effects after receiving the vaccine that last a day or two, including:

- Chills
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle and/or joint pain
- Redness, swelling and/or pain at the injection site
- Vomiting

Cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose are not expected symptoms of the vaccine. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended even if these symptoms arise within 48 hours of the vaccine.

CONTACT INFORMATION TO REPORT SIDE EFFECTS AFTER RECEIVING THE COVID-19 VACCINE

If you experience any persistent or moderate to severe side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, please contact your primary health care provider.

In addition, please report these side effects to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC. Visit cdc.gov/vsafe or scan the QR Code below using your smartphone to learn more.

v-safe℠ after vaccination health checker

COVID-19 Vaccine Myths Busted

1) **Do I need to wear a mask after I am vaccinated?**
Yes! Keep masking and distancing!

2) **Am I immune as soon as I'm vaccinated? Can I still get COVID-19?**
After you're vaccinated with both doses, you should develop immunity in about one to two weeks. Therefore, it is possible to be infected with COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

3) **Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?**
Nope! There is no live virus in the COVID-19 vaccine.

4) **Isn't one dose enough?**
No. For the vaccines currently available, two doses are required for the vaccine to work best. Get the second dose when scheduled, even if you had mild side effects after the first one, unless your health care provider advises you not to get the second shot.

5) **The COVID-19 vaccines were developed quickly. Are they unsafe?**
No safety steps were skipped when developing the COVID-19 vaccines. The real-world evidence also shows that they are very safe!

6) **Can the vaccine track me?**
No. There is no tracking technology in the vaccine.

7) **Does the vaccine change my DNA?**
Nope! It teaches your cells how to recognize the virus and fight it, but it doesn't impact the part of our cells where DNA is found.

8) **Can the vaccine make me sterile?**
Nope, it can't make anyone sterile.

9) **If I'm allergic to egg can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**
Yes, you can take the COVID-19 vaccines currently available.

10) **Can the vaccine give me HIV?**
Nope. However, having HIV means you are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19, and being vaccinated can reduce that risk.