



# COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently Asked Questions

This handout is to provide **accurate medical information** to help you make an **informed decision**. It has been reviewed by doctors. This is the most up to date information as of March 2021, and it will be updated as needed.



## Were the vaccines tested in people of colour or other minority groups?

The vaccine studies had **20% to 38% people of colour and other minorities**.



## Should I get a second shot of the vaccine if I had mild side effects?

Yes! Mild side effects happen to a lot of people. You need two shots for full protection - **one dose does not give you enough protection**. If you had a bad reaction, then it is best to talk to a medical professional about this.



## I have bad allergies, should I get the vaccine?

If you are allergic to the ingredients in the vaccine or have had a bad reaction to another vaccine before, then you should not get the vaccine. If you have bad allergies to other things (food, medicines), then **speak to a medical professional**.



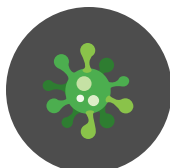
## How is the vaccine roll out working and who gets the vaccine first?

We have a group (“task force”) who is handling the different stages of vaccine roll-out. Those who can get very sick from COVID-19 will get the vaccine first: healthcare workers, those in long-term care homes, etc. The next phase will include people with health issues and older people. **In phase 3, all people who want a vaccine will be able to get one.**



## Do these vaccines work for people over the age of 65?

Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccinations showed similar protection in people over 65 years of age as they did in younger people: **Pfizer-BioNTech provided 95% immunity, while Moderna had 86% immunity for patients over 65.**



## Will I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

The vaccines are not “live” – this means they do not have any virus in them, so **they can not cause an infection in your body.**



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## Would I still need to wear a mask after getting my vaccine? Why?

**Yes.** There is a small chance you can still get sick from COVID-19 and then give it to others. **You still have to wear a mask and make sure you are social distancing after getting the vaccine.**



## Do we have a lot of information about side effects?

The studies that were done show good results, with **few serious side effects**. Most side effects happen between 2-3 days after getting the vaccine and up to 6 weeks after. When the studies were done, they **checked people for up to 2 months after they got their vaccines**.



## What about long-term side effects?

Even now, Health Canada is still checking people who get their vaccines to make sure there are no other side effects that come up. **If a new side effect does come up, it will be very rare and should not cause too much worry.**



## What is “herd immunity” and how does it work?

Herd immunity means **people get protected from the virus indirectly**. By vaccinating as many people as we can, we make sure other people who have not been vaccinated do not get the virus and cannot get sick from it. We think **immunizing 70-80% of people will lead to immunity for everyone and provide herd immunity.**



## There is a lot of information on WhatsApp, Facebook, and other social media. How do I know what is right?

Get information from a trusted source, like your **family physician or nurse practitioner**, or online from **Public Health websites** (see links below).



## How long am I protected for?

At this time, we do not know how long you will be protected for after a vaccine.

If you have more questions, you can speak with a medical professional who can provide you with more resources and information. **You can also visit the following Public Health websites:**

1. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>
2. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/vaccines.html>

