

# COVID-19 FAQs

## HISPANIC AUDIENCES

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### COVID-19 VACCINATION

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Have questions? That's ok.

Now is the time to get the facts.

Getting back to the moments we miss starts with getting informed. It is up to you

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#### **How do COVID-19 vaccines protect us?**

When we get a vaccine, it activates our immune response. This helps our bodies learn to fight off the virus without the danger of an actual infection. If we are exposed to the virus in the future, our immune system “remembers” how to fight it.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines use messenger RNA, or mRNA. mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus — they give our bodies “instructions” for how to make and fight the harmless spike-shaped proteins that will protect against a COVID-19 infection. While these vaccines use new technology, researchers have been studying them for decades.

The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine is a viral vector vaccine and also does not contain a live virus. It uses a harmless adenovirus to create a spike protein that the immune system responds to, creating antibodies to protect against COVID-19.

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### Did clinical trials include people like me?

Researchers made sure that the trials included adults of diverse backgrounds, races, ethnicities, and geographic areas. They collaborated with faith leaders, community organizations, and health clinics to reach volunteers from many different walks of life across the United States.

Medical experts and doctors want to make sure the vaccines work safely and effectively for as many people as possible. People may respond differently to vaccines based on factors like age, gender, and health conditions — so it is important to have a diverse group of participants in clinical trials.

COVID-19 has hit hard in the Black and Hispanic communities. Historically, these populations haven't always been included in clinical research, but with COVID-19 vaccines researchers made sure volunteers included people of color, as well as people over the age of 65 who are at higher risk of complications from the virus.

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### When can I get back to life?

We need to work together to get to the end of this pandemic.

While trial data suggests authorized COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective, we will only manage the pandemic if enough people take them. Medical experts estimate that at least 80% of the U.S. population needs to get vaccinated to achieve “herd immunity” — which means enough people have been protected to contain the spread of the virus.

Vaccine manufacturers are producing and distributing millions of doses of the vaccines, but they won't all be available at once. That's why certain high-risk groups are getting them first.

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Healthcare workers, elderly people in long-term care facilities, frontline workers, and individuals 75 and older are most vulnerable and will be eligible for the vaccine first in most states. More doses will become available to other groups in the spring, as supply increases.

Until enough people have been immunized against COVID-19, we should continue wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart from people we don't live with, avoiding crowds, and washing our hands.

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### **Do I have to show proof of citizenship to get vaccine?**

CDC does not require United States citizenship for individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

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### **What if I have an underlying health condition?**

People with underlying medical conditions can receive the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, vaccination is especially important for adults of any age with certain underlying medical conditions, like diabetes and high blood pressure, because they are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Ask your doctor if you have specific questions.

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### **Do vaccines protect against new variants?**

New variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 illness have emerged. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States should work against these variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including against new variants. CDC recommends getting vaccinated as soon as a vaccine is available to you

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