FYSB Family & Youth Services Bureau | Runaway and Homeless Youth Training & Technical Assistance Center

COVID-19 Vaccines: Common Concerns and Answers

Common Concerns	Answers
Do the vaccines work against the variants?	• At this time, yes. • Each new infection is an opportunity to develop a resistant variant. Hence why it is important for all of us to get vaccinated.
Which vaccine should I get?	• Whichever vaccine you can get access to as soon as possible. • Get whichever vaccine that you feel comfortable with. • All provide a high level of protection against death and hospitalization. • All vaccines are much safer than not being vaccinated.
What do I do if I get sick from the vaccine? Why do some people have side effects after a shot and others do not?	• It is likely a combination of history of prior exposure to other coronaviruses or to COVID-19, age, and genetics (everyone is different). • If you don't get symptoms, it does not mean you are not protected.
When will I be protected after I get the vaccine?	• After J&J: two weeks after single dose. • After Moderna and Pfizer: two weeks after second dose.
Why should I get vaccinated?	• To prevent getting hospitalized or dying from COVID-19. • To prevent getting sick from COVID-19. • To prevent giving COVID-19 to people you live with, work with, love, or interact with. • To prevent the development of variants that may be resistant to vaccines and that could threaten our community.
When can I hang out without a mask indoors with my friends or go out with someone new?	• Yes, if they are also vaccinated. • Yes, if they are not vaccinated but are only from one household or pod. • Yes, if you are in a small gathering of people who are vaccinated except for one household or pod that is not.

	• No, if in a large crowd of people. • No, if your friends are at risk for severe outcomes if they get infected.
If I have allergies, can I still get the vaccine?	• Yes, allergic reactions to the vaccine are very rare. People who have allergies may be more likely to get them, but it is still an extremely rare event. • The risk to your health from COVID-19 is far greater than the risk of an allergic reaction • Everyone is monitored for 15 minutes for signs of an allergic reaction, such as shortness of breath.
Can you still transmit the virus if you are vaccinated?	• Possible but reduced by at least 75% (J&J) to 94% (Pfizer two weeks after vaccine). • Research indicates that vaccinated people are less likely to spread COVID-19, however, as we learn more about the vaccines, it's important to continue taking precautions such as wearing a mask in public, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
Are the vaccines effective?	• Clinical trials and data collected since the vaccines were approved have shown that all three currently available vaccines prevent the vast majority of people from getting COVID-19. • However, no vaccine is 100% effective, so it is possible for some vaccinated people to be infected. Nevertheless, vaccines protect these people from serious illness leading to hospitalization or death. • Vaccines are most effective 2 weeks after the last (or single) dose.
Are the vaccines safe? What about J&J?	• Over 189 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the U.S. as of April 2021. A very small number of people have experienced severe allergic reactions to the vaccine. As a result, you will be asked to wait at the vaccination site for 15-20 minutes after you receive the vaccine. • The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was put on hold from April 13 to April 23, 2021 to review a very rare blood clotting disease possibly associated with the vaccine. *(TBD) This disease is incredibly rare, however, those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the past three weeks and who have severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath should seek medical care.*

Resources

Resources about COVID-19:
CDC: About COVID-19
CDC: How COVID-19 Spreads
CDC: About the Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19
NY Times Article: How Coronavirus Hijacks Your Cells

Resources about COVID-19 Vaccine:
CDC: Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine
CDC: Different COVID-19 Vaccines
CDC: Ensuring Vaccine Safety in the U.S.
CDC: About the Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19
Here is a link to a video created by the CDC about vaccine safety: Vaccines: How Do We Know They Are Safe?
HHS Video - Vaccines: How Do We Know They Are Safe?
Greater Than COVID Video 1 - "What you need to know about the COVID Vaccines and New Variants"
Greater Than COVID Video 2 - "Let's talk about the different COVID vaccines"
Greater Than COVID Video 3 - "What to expect after you get a COVID vaccine"
NY Times: Can the Covid Vaccine Protect Me Against Virus Variants?
NY Times: How 9 COVID 19 Vaccines Work
Tik Tok Video: How the mRNA vaccine works