

# COVID-19 Vaccine

# FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

## **Won't I get COVID if I get the vaccine?**

No, the vaccines DO NOT contain any live or dead virus and cannot replicate in the body.

## **But I will still get sick?**

Most common side effects (headache, tiredness, sore arm where you got the shot). These are normal and are signs your body is building protection against the real virus and usually lasts only 1-3 days.

## **I got the flu vaccine so I am already protected?**

The flu vaccine protects against influenza, not COVID-19. This is a different virus.

## **I already had COVID, why would I get the vaccine?**

We do not know how much immunity is built when someone has had COVID. We do know that it is only immunity towards that strain of the virus. Variants can reduce immunity.

## **What do you mean by variants?**

Variants are mutations of the virus. Usually creating ones that are easier to catch and different than other strains someone had before. Created by the virus continuing to spread and gain strength.

## **Doesn't the vaccine alter my DNA?**

No, the vaccine never enters the nucleus of your cells where your DNA is kept. The vaccines simply give a 'recipe' to your cells to create the proteins to fight COVID. Now it can fight the virus if it appears in the body. Then the 'recipe' fades. This fading can lead to the need for a booster.

## **Wait, why do I need a 2nd shot or booster?**

You get some immunity from #1 and some more from #2. Think of it as you trying to move a table across a room and can only move it halfway, but a friend joins and now you can both move the table across the room.

## **But, it was created too quickly?**

The mRNA and viral vector methods of vaccines have been around for decades! Vaccines are created in labs and can easily be increased in size to produce more vaccine. COVID-19 may be new, but this type of virus has been studied since the 1960's! The vaccines followed ALL safety and steps as other vaccines.

## **Yeah, but clinical trials?**

Clinical trials included 10's of thousands of people from black/African American, LatinX/Hispanic, American Indian, and Asian communities.

## **Why does the vaccine cost so much?**

Vaccines are free of charge for everyone. Some locations do charge an administration fee. HCPH does not charge any fee for a COVID-19 vaccine.

## **Who should get it?**

Everyone who can medically get it. HCPH vaccinates regardless of residency, visa, or immigration status. We DO NOT need your insurance information.