



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Butler County
General Health District
Vaccine FAQ

1. Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me test positive on a COVID-19 test?

Short answer: No.

Long Answer: COVID-19 diagnostic tests look for either Viral RNA (PCR) or viral antigens. There is no mechanism that exists that would cause a positive test on PCR, and there is no evidence that it can cause a false positive in antigen tests. It may cause a positive on antibody tests, but research is still being conducted.

2. Should I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I've had COVID-19 before?

Short answer: Yes.

Long Answer: COVID-19 vaccine is safe for people with a history of a COVID-19, and there is currently no indication that natural immunity is superior to vaccine immunity.

3. May I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days and recovered?

Short answer: Yes.

Long answer: There is no minimum interval that has been determined for time between infection and getting a vaccine. However, current evidence suggests that reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after infection so a person with a COVID-19 infection in the preceding 90 days can delay vaccination until the end of this period if that is what they want, or their medical provider recommends, but it is not necessary.

4. May I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I just tested positive (within 10 days) or am currently sick with COVID-19?

Short answer: No.

Long answer: CDC recommends that vaccination of persons with known current COVID-19 infection should be deferred until the person has recovered from acute illness and meets criteria to discontinue isolation (usually 10-14 days).

5. I have no symptoms, should I get a test to see if I have an asymptomatic infection before getting the vaccine?

Short answer: No.

Long answer: CDC states that viral testing to assess for COVID-19 infection solely for the purposes of vaccine decision-making is not recommended.

6. I believe that I have already had COVID-19, should I get an antibody test to see if I'm already immune?

Short answer: No.

Long answer: Antibody tests are notoriously unreliable, have cross-reactivity problems, and there are currently no FDA approved tests commercially available that would indicate immunity. There is no evidence that natural immunity is superior to vaccine induced immunity or makes vaccine-induced immunity redundant.

7. I have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, can I get the vaccine during my quarantine so I don't get infected?

Short answer: No.

Long answer: The vaccine is not approved as post-exposure prophylaxis. This means that it is not recommended to give it to people after they have been exposed as a way to head off the infection. This is because the time it would take for the vaccine to work is probably too long to do any good.. You should wait until the end of your quarantine.

8. Do I have to quarantine if I've been exposed to someone after I have the COVID-19 vaccine?

Short answer: Yes.

Long answer: Current evidence available on the vaccine shows that it is safe and effective against preventing illness and severe illness. However, it is unknown at this point if the vaccine offers complete immunity. This means that we don't know if you can still spread the disease to other people for a short period of time before your immune system activates, but it will be unlikely that you have symptoms, so you won't know. We also know that there will always be people for whom the vaccine will not work and based on the available data that chance is 5-6% .

9. What if I develop symptoms for COVID-19 after I've been vaccinated?

Short answer: You should act no differently than before you had the vaccine.

Long answer: See above answer.

10. Do I still have to wear a mask after I've been vaccinated?

Short answer: Yes.

Long answer: See long answer for No. 8.

11. Do I have to get the same type of vaccine for both doses?

Short answer: Yes.

12. Will the vaccine change my DNA?

Short answer: No.

Long Answer: There exists no biological mechanism for the mRNA of the COVID-19 vaccine to either enter the nucleus of the cell where your DNA is stored nor to convert that strand into your DNA even if it did.

13. Will I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

Short answer: No.

Long Answer: No, it is impossible for you to get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

For more information please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>