



## Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccine

Sources: Center for Disease Control (CDC), Alabama Department of Public (ADPH), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

### 1. Where can I get a vaccine?

You can visit [vaccine.gov](http://vaccine.gov) and type in your zip code to see all the locations that offer it, what type of vaccine they offer, and if they have it in stock.

### 2. Do people get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

- a. The vaccines cannot give someone COVID-19.
  - i. mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19.
- b. They do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way.
  - i. mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept.
  - ii. The cell breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using the instructions.
- c. Source: [CDC – Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

### 3. If I have already had COVID-19 do I need to be vaccinated? Answer from the CDC:

Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Studies have shown that vaccination provides a strong boost in protection in people who have recovered from COVID-19.

Source: [CDC - FAQs](#)



#### **4. How did they develop this vaccine so quickly? Answer from the CDC:**

Researchers have been studying and working with mRNA vaccines for decades. Interest has grown in these vaccines because they can be developed in a laboratory using readily available materials. This means the process can be standardized and scaled up, making vaccine development faster than traditional methods of making vaccines.

mRNA vaccines have been studied before for flu, Zika, rabies, and cytomegalovirus (CMV). As soon as the necessary information about the virus that causes COVID-19 was available, scientists began designing the mRNA instructions for cells to build the unique spike protein into an mRNA vaccine.

Future mRNA vaccine technology may allow for one vaccine to provide protection for multiple diseases, thus decreasing the number of shots needed for protection against common vaccine-preventable diseases.

Beyond vaccines, cancer research has used mRNA to trigger the immune system to target specific cancer cells.

Source: [CDC – Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

#### **5. Do the vaccines actually work? Answer from FEMA, CDC:**

Rigorous clinical trials have found that the vaccines currently available in the United States are more than 90% effective at preventing COVID-19 and are important tools to stop the pandemic.

Additionally, the COVID-19 vaccines may help protect you from getting severely sick even if you do get COVID-19. The more people who get vaccinated, the closer we get to having most people protected from COVID-19.

Source: [FEMA – Coronavirus Rumor Control](#)



## **6. Do any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for use in the United States shed or release any of their components? Answer from the CDC:**

No. Vaccine shedding is the term used to describe the release or discharge of any of the vaccine components in or outside of the body. Vaccine shedding can only occur when a vaccine contains a weakened version of the virus. None of the vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain a live virus. mRNA and viral vector vaccines are the two types of currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines available.

Source: [CDC – Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

## **7. Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?**

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. Both mRNA and viral vector COVID-19 vaccines deliver instructions (genetic material) to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19. However, the material never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

Source: [CDC – Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

## **8. What do we know about the Delta variant?**

The data shows that it is much more contagious. Some vaccinated people can get Delta in a breakthrough infection and may be contagious. Even so, vaccinated individuals represent a very small amount of transmission occurring around the country. Virtually all hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among the unvaccinated.

Source: [ADPH](#) and [Public Health Advisory](#)

Video from the CDC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnMOmsrOoMc>

## **9. What has changed and what is the updated guidance?**

As a result of the spread of the Delta variant nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone, including persons fully-vaccinated, wear a mask in all indoor settings to help prevent the spread of the Delta variant to protect others.



CDC also recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 regardless of their vaccination status.

Source: [ADPH](#) and the [CDC – When You’re Fully Vaccinated](#)

## 10. What can we do to reduce the spread of COVID-19?

The best tool we have to reduce the spread of COVID-19 continues to be the COVID-19 vaccines. Getting fully-vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19 infection in more than 97 percent of persons vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccination rate in Alabama remains very low and is insufficient to prevent continued, widespread transmission. Alabama has the lowest vaccination rates in the U.S. and now has one of the highest transmission rates in the U.S.

In addition, the updated mask guidance should be followed with all persons wearing masks indoors regardless of vaccination status in order to protect others.

Source: [ADPH](#) and [Public Health Advisory](#)