

Answer the Call to Stop the Spread

Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Per the [CDC Frequently Asked Questions about Vaccination](#) page:

“All the COVID-19 vaccines being used have gone through rigorous studies to ensure they are as safe as possible. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines that have been shown to meet rigorous safety criteria and be effective as determined by data from the manufactures and findings from large clinical trials. Clinical trials must first show they meet rigorous criteria for safety and effectiveness before any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, can be authorized or approved for use. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine.

Because there is a small risk of an allergic reaction, it is important to be aware of the contents of the vaccine to understand if the vaccine is right for you, in consultation with your medical care provider.

The two COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States do not contain eggs, preservatives or latex. For a full list of ingredients, please see each vaccine’s Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#)

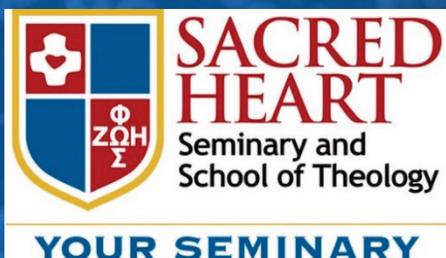
People with underlying medical conditions can receive the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines provided they have not had [an immediate or severe allergic reaction](#) to a COVID-19 vaccine or to any of the ingredients in the vaccine. Learn more about vaccination [considerations for persons with underlying medical conditions](#). Vaccination is an important consideration for adults of any age with **certain underlying medical conditions** because they are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.”

Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

“No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19.” [[CDC: Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)]

[How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)

“COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. Different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection, but with all types of vaccines, the body is left with a supply of “memory” T-lymphocytes as well as B-lymphocytes that will remember how to fight the virus in the future.



It typically takes a few weeks for the body to produce T-lymphocytes and B-Lymphocytes after vaccination. Therefore, it is possible that a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection.

Sometimes after vaccination, the process of building immunity can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and a sign that the body is building immunity.”

If I am vaccinated, do I still have to quarantine after travel or exposure?

Short Answer – Travel? YES. Exposure? NO (but yes, after 3 months post-vaccine), read on:

Per CNN Health article 02/11/2021, by Maggie Fox: [Fully Vaccinated people can skip Covid quarantines, CDC says:](#)

People who have been fully vaccinated against coronavirus – meaning they have received two doses of either the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine – can skip quarantine if they are exposed to someone infected with the virus, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday.

“Fully vaccinated persons who meet criteria will no longer be required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19,” the CDC said in updates to its webpage with guidance on vaccination.

The criteria: *They must be fully vaccinated – having had both shots with at least two weeks having passed since the second shot. But the CDC says protection may wear off after three months, so people who had their last shot three months ago or more should quarantine if they are exposed. They also should quarantine if they show symptoms, the CDC said. “This recommendation to waive quarantine for people with vaccine-derived immunity aligns with quarantine recommendations for those with natural immunity, which eases implementation,” the CDC said.*

*“At this time, vaccinated persons should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, ..., **following CDC travel guidance**, ...,” the agency said.*

SHSST students and employees should still review SHSST quarantine policies, which are developed using the CDC guidance but tailored to our community: <https://www.shsst.edu/covid-19/>

In the news

- [WI Department of Health Services Newsletter](#) – 02/12/2021 Edition
- WHO – [The Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine: what you need to know](#) (Feb. 11, 2021)
- CDC – [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States](#) (Updated Feb. 5, 2021)
- CDC – [About Variants of the Virus](#) (Updated Feb. 2, 2021)
 - *“So far, studies suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines recognize these variants. This is being closely investigated and more studies are underway”*
 - *“CDC is collaborating with EPA to confirm that disinfectants on [EPA’s List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) inactivate these variant viruses.”*

Information Resources

Vaccine Registration

- Local health departments – [Journal Sentinel 'Milwaukee-Area Phone Numbers, Hotlines, Email Addresses and websites for Vaccine Info, Appointments'](#) (02/07/2021 issue, pp 6a-7a)
- Meijer Foods – <https://clinic.meijer.com/>
- Walgreens – Walgreens.com/ScheduleVaccine

Virus Transmission

CDC COVID Data Tracker – bit.ly/COVIDdatatracker

Getting Tested: COVID-19

- At Home Collection Kit – DHS – [click here](#)
- Community Testing Sites – DHS – [click here](#)
- IMPACT – Summary of Testing Sites Southeastern WI, including health centers – [click here](#)

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at cdc.gov/coronavirus or the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services at combatcovid.hhs.gov.

We are all in this together!

Important! Because it will take time for everyone to get the vaccine, you should continue to wear a mask and wash your hands with soap and water and avoid crowds, even after getting vaccinated. We are here to help and support you. Please email HR@shsst.edu with any questions or concerns you might have regarding the vaccine.

In line with the Priests of the Sacred Heart and in the interest of the common good, SHSST will be encouraging, not mandating, your COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the President-Rector directly.