

Frequently asked questions

1. When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available?
 - a. It is currently available in all states, Each state has its own plan for deciding which groups of people will be vaccinated first.
2. How could the vaccine be developed so quickly?
 - a. Since the pandemic began, it has been charging along at an unprecedented pace and required development of the vaccine. Newer vaccine technology was used, and governments across the globe financially backed up for the most promising vaccine candidate. Researchers were also able to use previous coronavirus and vaccine research
3. Why is the vaccine so important?
 - a. Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed and have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19.
4. What is herd immunity?
 - a. Herd immunity occurs when enough people become protected to a disease to make its spread unlikely. Protection from COVID-19 is very important because for some people, it can cause severe illness or death.
5. What are the hours of Miriam Medical Clinics?
 - a. We are currently on an appointment basis only, walk-in are welcome during our Office hours ???
6. Where can I go to be vaccinated against COVID-19?
 - a. Reserve your place in line for the COVID-19 vaccine for City of Philadelphia: <https://covid-vaccine-interest.phila.gov>
 - b. For Pennsylvania: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Vaccine.aspx#map>
7. What are the COVID vaccine's side effects?
 - a. The most common side effects are pain and swelling in the arm where you received the shot. You may also have fever, chills, tiredness, and headache. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Most side effects were mild to moderate, and more commonly occurred after the second dose
8. Is there any difference between the available vaccines?
 - a. Currently, two vaccines are authorized: Pfizer (2 shots, 21 days apart) and Moderna (2 shots, 28 days apart) You should get your second shot as close to the recommended interval as possible, but not earlier. However, there is no maximum interval between the first and second doses for either vaccine.
9. Will I be seen by the same Doctors at Miriam Medical Clinics?
 - a. Our staff is volunteers based, we will try accommodate the care with same doctor based on the the schedule availability

10. What insurance do you accept?
 - a. If you are not covered by the following insurance plans, you can also contact us and we will find the best solution to suit you. We currently accept Blue Cross Blue Shield, Highmark, Cigna HealthSpring, Medicare, United Healthcare Community Plan, Health Partners Plans, Keystone First, Aetna, United Health Partners.
11. Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?
 - a. COVID-19 vaccine protects you from getting sick with COVID-19. Being protected from getting sick is important because even though many people with COVID-19 have only a mild illness, others may get a severe illness, have long term health effects, or even die.
12. Does the COVID-19 vaccine change my DNA?
 - a. No. mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept, instead, it help's body's natural defenses to safely develop immunity to disease.
13. What is a clinical trial and why is it important?
 - a. Clinical trials are research studies performed in people that are aimed at evaluating a medical intervention, such as if a new treatment, like a new drug or vaccine is safe and effective in people.
14. Can I be given the flu vaccine at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine?
 - a. No. You should not get a COVID-19 vaccine and a flu vaccine at the same time. COVID-19 vaccines should be given alone with at least 14 days either before or after you get any other vaccines, including a flu vaccine.
15. Should I still wear a mask after I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?
 - a. Yes. You still need to wear a mask, and continue to follow COVID 19 recommendations: Stay at least 6 feet away from others, Avoid crowds, Avoid poorly ventilated spaces, and Wash your hands often
16. Why can't I just wear a mask and not receive the COVID-19 vaccine?
 - a. You should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 or if you did not, and even if you have already recovered from COVID-19. It will help you from getting COVID-19, safer way to help build protection, and is an important tool to help stop the pandemic
17. I hear a lot about the COVID-19 vaccine containing a microchip. Is this true?
 - a. No. The ingredients in currently available COVID-19 vaccines include mRNA, lipids, salts, sugars, and buffers. Buffers help maintain the stability of the pH solution.
18. Are there any other treatments for COVID-19 other than the vaccine?
 - a. For mild symptoms of COVID, you can use Tylenol for fever, muscle and body aches, and/or headaches, Dextromethorphan (Robitussin, Mucinex) for cough/ congestion. For moderate/severe symptoms, you should call your provider prior to going to the hospital, where further treatments options are available.
19. If my wife gets vaccinated, doesn't that mean that I don't have to wear a mask around her?
 - a. No. You still need to wear a mask.
20. When will it be safe not to wear a mask?

- a. Experts are still learning more about how long vaccines protect against COVID-19 in real-world conditions.
21. Can children be vaccinated against COVID-19?
- a. Not yet, It is based on when research trials on children will finish up.
22. Should pregnant women be vaccinated against COVID-19
- a. Yes. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problem with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta.
23. If I am trying to become pregnant now or if I am planning to try in the future, should I still get the COVID-19 vaccine?
- a. Yes, There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines.
24. Why is the vaccine being “pushed” on minority groups?
- a. Unfortunately, Black Americans are infected with COVID-19 at nearly three times the rate of white Americans, and are more likely to die of COVID-19 compared with other racial and ethnic groups.
25. Is there an advantage to receiving the one dose vaccine by J&J over the two dose vaccines from Moderna or Pfizer?
- a. Even though the vaccine efficacy for the J&J vaccine efficacy was lower than the other vaccines the overall efficacy against severe disease was very good (85%). It is important to remember that the important aspect of being vaccinated is to make sure we keep people from developing severe illness and dying. The J&J has excellent effectiveness at achieving this objective.
26. Should I still be tested even though the vaccine is available?
- a. Yes. Until you are able to be vaccinated you should beware of your status, because you are still spreading the virus if you have been exposed and if you are positive.
27. How long does immunity to the virus last if I’ve been infected?
- a. Experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19.
28. If I was treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, how long should I wait?
- a. You should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
29. Can I become reinfected after I’ve been infected and recovered?
- a. 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.
30. How long does the vaccine provide protection from COVID-19?
- a. We don’t know how long protection lasts for those who are vaccinated.
31. Do the current vaccines protect against the emergent variants?
- a. Early evidence suggests that the vaccines are effective against the new coronavirus variants, further testing against the new variants is underway.
32. Can I get vaccinated against COVID-19 while I am currently sick with COVID?
- a. No. People with COVID-19 who have symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have completed home isolations.