



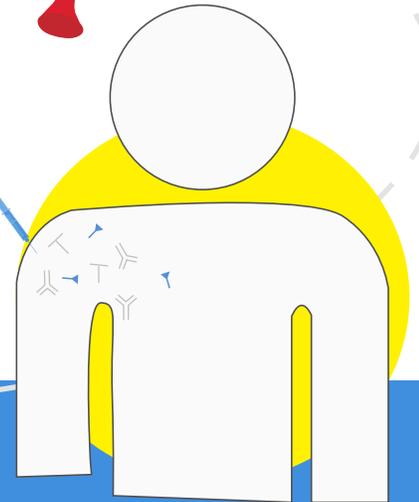
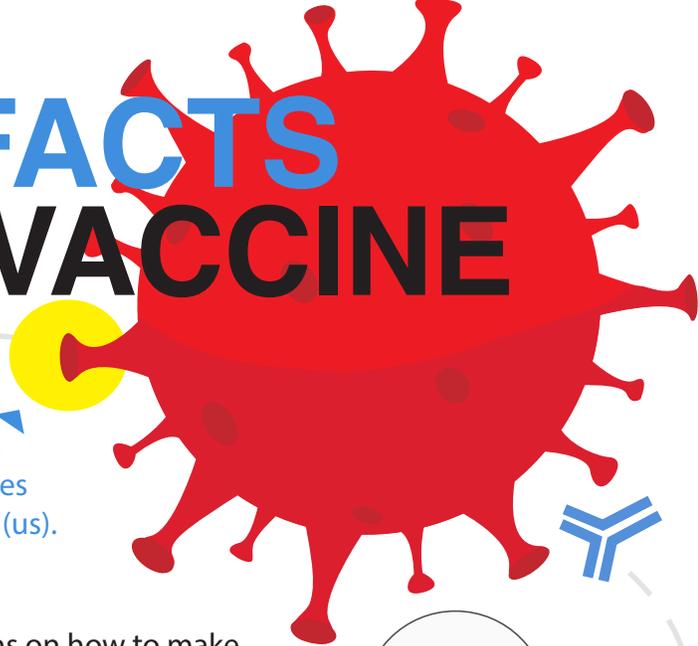
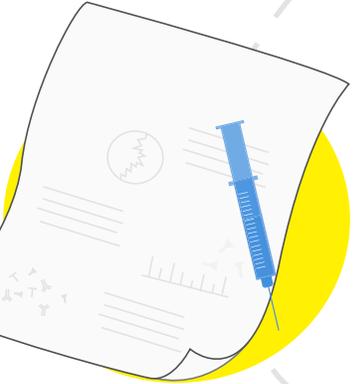
# GET THE FACTS COVID-19 VACCINE

## HOW DOES THE COVID VACCINE WORK?

The spikes of the COVID virus look like the spikes of a crown, and give the coronavirus its name. **These spikes are what allows the virus to lock onto a host (us).**

The COVID vaccines contain instructions on how to make the spike. **THEY DO NOT CONTAIN THE LIVE VIRUS ITSELF.**

With these special instructions, our own immune system can recognize the spikes so that we are prepared to fight when needed. **We have empowered our body fight the virus.**



## COMMON COVID MYTHS

**THE COVID VACCINE CAN GIVE ME COVID FALSE**

**FACT:** COVID vaccines DO NOT contain the live virus and CANNOT transmit the infection.

**I SHOULD NOT GET THE VACCINE SINCE I HAVE ALLERGIES FALSE**

**FACT:** You can still safely receive the vaccine if you have food or medication allergies.

**RECEIVING THE VACCINE CAN MAKE ME INFERTILE FALSE**

**FACT:** The vaccines have not shown to affect fertility or alter a person's genetic code. Pregnant and breast-feeding women should be offered the vaccine as well.

**IF I AM IMMUNOCOMPROMISED, I SHOULD NOT TAKE THE VACCINE FALSE**

**FACT:** If you are immunocompromised or have a chronic illness, you SHOULD receive the vaccine to reduce your risk of severe COVID illness. The risks of side effects from the vaccine are SIGNIFICANTLY lower than risks associated with getting the virus.

**IF I ALREADY HAD COVID I DO NOT NEED THE VACCINE FALSE**

**FACT:** If you have recovered from COVID you should still receive the vaccine. If you have been exposed to the COVID virus, wait 14 days before receiving the vaccine.

**THE VACCINE WAS RUSHED AND ISN'T SAFE FALSE**

**FACT:** Researchers took no safety shortcuts. Large studies show the vaccine is safe.

# VACCINE FAST FACTS

The vaccines are 95% effective at preventing any covid illness and 100% effective at preventing serious covid illness. Both vaccines are equally effective.

The vaccines require 2 doses, several weeks apart, for full immunity.

Full immunity from covid occurs 10-14 days after the second dose of the vaccine.

Side effects may include discomfort at the injection site, mild fever, headache or fatigue. This is a sign of your immune system working, and symptoms subside within 24 hours. Side effects can be managed with acetaminophen or ibuprofen.

The vaccine is for use in those aged 16 and older (pfizer) or 18 and older (moderna).

After vaccination, there is no need for covid testing.

It is likely that vaccines will greatly reduce transmission of the virus to others. However, masking and social distancing are still recommended.

## HOW CAN I SCHEDULE MY VACCINE?

MyChart Patient Portal:  
County residents age 65 and older may self-schedule as appointments become available.

County residents age 65 and older can also fill out a new online form:  
[www.MeritusHealth.com/covidvaccine](https://www.MeritusHealth.com/covidvaccine)  
Once submitted, they will wait for a call to be scheduled for an appointment.

*If you know someone who wants to be scheduled for a vaccine appointment and is a county resident age 65 and older, you may fill in and submit the form for him/her.*

## MORE INFORMATION ON VACCINES:

Meritus Health  
[www.MeritusHealth.com/covidvaccine](https://www.MeritusHealth.com/covidvaccine)

Maryland State COVID-19 Hotline  
Phone: 211 Option 2  
Text: MDReady to 898211  
for vaccine distribution updates.

CDC Website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/index.html>  
For more languages:  
<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/other-languages>



Source: New England Journal of Medicine, 11 Jan 2021, "COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions"  
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