



2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19]

phd3.idaho.gov/covid19

What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine

While information about when the vaccine will be available to the public is limited, it's important to know that there is nothing to worry about if you choose to get the vaccine.

Types of Vaccines:

There are currently three main types of COVID-19 vaccines that are or soon will undergo large-scale clinical trials in the US. These types are mRNA, Protein subunit, and Vector.

How Does the Vaccine 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, as 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 that virus in the future.

Most of the COVID-19 vaccines require more than one shot. The first shot starts building protection, and the second shot a few weeks later is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer.

COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19.

None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the US use the live virus. Even the Vector Vaccines, which contain a weakened

version of a live virus, it's different from the virus that causes COVID-19.

Receiving an mRNA vaccine will not alter your DNA. mRNA can most easily be described as instructions for how to make a protein or even just a piece of protein. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on a COVID-19 viral test. Viral tests are used to see if you have a current infection. If your body develops an immune response, which is the goal of vaccination, there is a possibility you may test positive on some antibody tests, which test for previous infections.

People who have gotten sick from COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with COVID-19 before.



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For current COVID-19 information visit <https://phd3.idaho.gov/covid19>. The COVID-19 Hotline is available Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM (208) 455-5411

This document was created 12/4/2020 using information and guidance available to-date and is subject to change per emerging guidance. Information adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.