

# PARENTS PACK

MONTHLY UPDATES ABOUT  
VACCINES ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

## ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES

Vaccines that protect against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, are being developed at unprecedented speed. In addition to adjusting to an ever-changing daily life, many people have questions about the vaccines, especially with two vaccines on the cusp of approval.

Recently, we sat down with Dr. Paul Offit, Director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (VEC), for answers to some of the most common questions about COVID-19 vaccines. The video interview covered the following topics:

- Why Is It Important to Get the Flu Vaccine During the COVID-19 Pandemic?
- How Do mRNA Vaccines Work?
- How Will We Know That a COVID-19 Vaccine Is Safe?
- Are Reinfections with COVID-19 Possible?
- Why Will We Still Need to Wear Masks and Social Distance after a COVID-19 Vaccine Becomes Available?
- Why Aren't COVID-19 Vaccines Being Tested in Children?
- How Do DNA Vaccines Work?
- What Is the Difference Between a Vaccine Clinical Trial and a Vaccine Challenge Study?

The videos are also available on the Vaccine Education Center video page ([vaccine.chop.edu/videos](https://vaccine.chop.edu/videos)) and in a YouTube playlist ([youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUv9oht3hC6RoBwuRegsQiCO\\_6S3U8hIL](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUv9oht3hC6RoBwuRegsQiCO_6S3U8hIL)).

The VEC also has a dedicated webpage for answering questions related to COVID-19 and vaccines. **COVIDVaccineAnswers.org** has several sections, including COVID-19 vaccines, COVID-19 vaccine studies, COVID-19 vaccine availability, COVID-19 vaccine safety, COVID-19 vaccine news and COVID-19 video resources. The page is updated regularly, and to date, almost 50 questions have been answered. New questions are added as they arise. Examples of some questions addressed on the page include:

1. If you had the virus and recovered will you still be able, or need, to get the vaccine?
2. How many doses of a COVID-19 vaccine will be needed?
3. How will we know if a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?
4. Can mRNA vaccines change the DNA of a person?
5. If a person is vaccinated against COVID-19, will they still be able to spread the virus to susceptible people?
6. Once I have been vaccinated against coronavirus, am I exempt from lockdown restrictions?
7. Who will get the vaccine first?

If you do not see your question, you can submit it to the VEC using an online form on the **COVIDVaccineAnswers.org** page.

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Trivia Corner



**Why are multiple doses of some vaccines necessary?**

- a) The vaccine doesn't work for all people after one dose.
- b) Frequent outbreaks of disease are circulating in the community.
- c) Doctors prefer to give multiple doses of those vaccines.
- d) Increasing doses works the best.

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### Trivia Answer:

The correct answer is A. Because a vaccine might not work for all people after one dose, multiple doses of vaccines are sometimes necessary. If a disease is rare in a community, multiple doses of a vaccine may also be needed to enhance immunity.

Go to [vaccine.chop.edu/trivia](http://vaccine.chop.edu/trivia) to play *Just the Vax*, the Vaccine Education Center's trivia game, where you can find this question and others like it.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### COVID-19 assessment and tracking tools

With the holidays upon us, you may be concerned about the risks of hosting or attending a gathering during COVID-19. Two tools can help:

- **Wondering how likely it is that someone will be infected at a gathering?** – The “COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool” estimates the likelihood that at least one person at an event could be infected with COVID-19, based on the size and location of the gathering. The tool was developed by teams at Georgia Institute of Technology and Applied Bioinformatics Laboratory. ([covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu](http://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu))
- **Wondering how many COVID-19 cases are in your community?** – The “Mapping COVID-19 in Your Community” tool provides easy access to weekly test positivity rates and cases by county using an interactive map. This tool also offers projections of positivity rates in the coming weeks. The tool was developed by the PolicyLab at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. ([policylab.chop.edu/covid-lab-mapping-covid-19-your-community](http://policylab.chop.edu/covid-lab-mapping-covid-19-your-community))

### COVID-19 clinical trial: real or fake?

- Are you considering enrolling in a COVID-19 clinical trial that tests effective vaccines and treatments?
- Did you receive unsolicited emails, text messages or phone calls encouraging you to enroll?

If so, it’s important to make sure the trials are legitimate. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) provides helpful tips on how to tell the difference between real and fake studies. For example, legitimate clinical trials never ask for money, bank account numbers, credit card information, or Social Security numbers. However, some questions and information will be needed from clinical trial participants. Find out more about how to tell the difference on the FTC’s website ([consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/10/covid-19-clinical-trial-real-or-fake-learn-how-tell-difference](http://consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/10/covid-19-clinical-trial-real-or-fake-learn-how-tell-difference)).

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### Send us your comments

If you have any comments about this newsletter or suggestions about how we can make our program more helpful, please send them to [contactPACK@email.chop.edu](mailto:contactPACK@email.chop.edu).