

I HAVE ALLERGIES. CAN I GET THE mRNA COVID – 19 VACCINE?

- If you have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or immediate allergic reaction to any ingredient in an mRNA COVID – 19 vaccine, you should not get an mRNA COVID – 19 vaccine.
 - o This includes allergic reactions to polyethylene glycol (PEG) and polysorbate.
 - o Polyethylene glycol has many uses in the medical industry. Most commonly it is used as a laxative. While polysorbate is not an ingredient in either of the mRNA COVID – 19 vaccines it is closely related to PEG which is in the vaccines.
 - o People who are allergic to PEG or polysorbate should not get an mRNA COVID – 19 vaccine.
- If you have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or an immediate allergic reaction after getting the first dose of the vaccine, you should not get another dose of an mRNA COVID – 19 vaccine.
 - o An immediate allergic reaction means a reaction within 4 hours of getting vaccinated. Symptoms may include hives, swelling, wheezing (respiratory distress) or cardiovascular collapse.
- If you have had anaphylaxis following other vaccines or injectable medications, you should consult with your allergist before scheduling your vaccine.
- People with common allergies to medications, foods, inhalants, insects and latex are no more likely than the general public to have allergic reaction to the mRNA COVID – 19 vaccines. People with common allergies are not thought to be at increased risk of allergy to this vaccine.

I HAVE AN IMMUNODEFICIENCY. CAN I GET THE mRNA COVID – 19 VACCINE?

- The mRNA COVID – 19 vaccines are not live viral vaccines so there is no risk of getting infection from the vaccine. These vaccines can be administered to immunocompromised patients.
- If you have a primary or secondary immunodeficiency, or are taking medications that suppress the immune system, they (the vaccines) simply may not work as well.

CAN I GET TESTED TO SEE IF I AM ALLERGIC TO THE mRNA COVID – 19 VACCINE?

- Neither the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology nor the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology endorse testing currently.
- Testing for polyethylene glycol, polysorbate or the mRNA COVID – 19 vaccines has not been developed and we do not know the safety or the predictive value of testing.

I RECEIVE ALLERGY SHOTS. CAN I GET THE mRNA COVID – 19 VACCINE?

- If you receive allergy shots, the mRNA vaccine is safe to get.
- The mRNA COVID – 19 vaccine should not be received on the same day as you receive your allergy shots?
- They should be given 24 hours apart.

I HAVE OR THINK I MAY HAVE ALREADY HAD COVID – 19. SHOULD I STILL RECEIVE THE VACCINE?

- People who have already had COVID – 19 or suspect they may have been infected should still get the vaccine.
- It is not known how long the immunity of a natural infection lasts. The vaccine should help further reduce the risk of reinfection.
- It is recommended people finish their isolation before receiving the vaccine.
- People who have had COVID – 19 are at very low risk of reinfection in the first 90 days after infection. If you have had COVID – 19 in the last 90 days, you may wait until more vaccine is available.

References:

American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
Centers for Disease Control

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