

# We all have good questions about vaccination



## Is the COVID-19 vaccine...

### Free? **YES**

- There is no charge to receive the vaccine.
- If you are charged a fee to make an appointment or to get a vaccination, it's fraud.

### Universal and accessible to all? **YES**

- It is not mandatory to have a RAMQ card or health insurance.
- Only your name and date of birth will be requested.

### Mandatory? **NO**

- Vaccination is strongly recommended for the entire population over 16 years of age (the minimum age is subject to change according to current studies).

## Could I miss my turn to be vaccinated?

### **NO**

Once it's your age group's turn to be vaccinated, you can make an appointment. You are eligible to receive the vaccine as of that date and you can still receive the vaccine thereafter, regardless of when you choose to get vaccinated.

## Can the COVID-19 vaccine...

### Give me COVID-19? **NO**

- The vaccines authorized in Canada do not contain live virus, so it is impossible to get the disease through vaccination.

### Make a COVID-19 test be positive? **NO**

- A COVID test only checks whether a person is infected and sick with the virus.

### Contain toxic animal or human products? **NO**

- None of the vaccines contain blood products, mercury, aluminum, formaldehyde, embryo cells, or any other animal products.

### Be risky if I want to have a child? **NO**

- There is no evidence of side effects of the COVID vaccines on fertility or infertility, i.e., the vaccines do not impact the ability to become pregnant or carry a pregnancy to term.
- The vaccine may be recommended for a pregnant or breastfeeding person to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and have better protection. Consult your physician.

### Allow tracing? **NO**

- Vaccines do not introduce microchips into our bodies. When we receive one of the COVID-19 vaccines, our personal information is not shared and we are not tracked. The vaccine contains only materials that can be absorbed and broken down by the body.



COVID-19  
**vaccination  
operation**

As new information on vaccines becomes available, information to the public will be updated. For more information, please refer to [quebec.ca](http://quebec.ca) (in French and English).  
As required, ask someone to assist you.

### Is vaccination effective in fighting the pandemic?

Vaccination is one of the most effective measures to protect you against COVID-19. It can prevent disease or limit serious complications and prevent death. The more people get vaccinated, the less likely the virus is to reproduce. In time, it dies out, as has happened with many diseases.

**In total, vaccines have controlled seven serious diseases: smallpox, diphtheria, tetanus, yellow fever, whooping cough, polio and measles.**

### What are the adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccines?

The adverse effects of the vaccine are quite small compared to the serious and potentially fatal consequences of COVID-19. After receiving the vaccine, you may feel pain at the injection site. You may also experience the following effects:

- Fatigue, fever or chills
- Headaches, muscle or joint pain

These mild to moderate symptoms usually disappear after 1 to 2 days.

### Are COVID-19 vaccines effective?

Fourteen to 28 days after a first dose of vaccine, a person has more than an 80% chance of developing immunity to COVID-19. The recommended second dose is designed to build long-term immunity to the virus. Given the high level of protection after a single dose, the government plans to administer the second dose within 120 days (four months).

### Are COVID-19 vaccines safe, even though they were produced quickly?

Health Canada has followed the same strict protocols as for all vaccines. In the face of the global crisis against COVID-19, the search for a vaccine became a priority in all countries. Every step required to develop, test and validate the vaccines was done with unprecedented efficiency.

### Should I get the vaccine if I've had COVID-19?

Even if a person has already had COVID-19, it's important to get the vaccine to increase protection. People who've had COVID-19 and are vaccinated do not necessarily have more adverse effects.

### Why do we need to be vaccinated if the human body can defeat COVID-19 naturally?

People who are vaccinated against COVID-19 are protected from this disease. They are less likely to have symptoms or serious illness.

### Can the COVID-19 vaccine change my DNA?

**No.** This belief associated with messenger RNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) is false. It is strictly impossible for messenger RNA vaccines to change a person's genes. The vaccine does not penetrate the nuclei of cells where DNA is located. The messenger RNA is very quickly degraded by the cells.

### Are COVID-19 vaccines effective against variants?

**Yes.** According to the latest available data, current vaccines are also effective against the British variant. Studies are ongoing for other variants around the world. If necessary, vaccines will be adjusted to properly combat certain variants.

### Why continue to protect yourself after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

Even when a vaccine is claimed to be highly effective, it does not provide 100% protection. Health measures continue to ensure that you protect yourself and others. It will take several months to immunize a sufficiently large proportion of the population.



For more information  
and to make an appointment:

 [Quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine](https://Quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine)

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