



Vaccinate The Natural State

Businesses Fighting COVID-19

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR EMPLOYERS



GET THE FACTS: THE SAFETY OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Your employees will likely have questions regarding the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, and it's important you have answers. Following are some highlights from the video on the health and safety of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Your employees may wonder if the vaccine is safe. The answer is yes, the COVID-19 vaccine is safe. The COVID-19 vaccines have all met rigorous safety standards, undergone intensive safety monitoring and completed extensive clinical trials. We also know the vaccine is safe because the technology used to create it is not new. In fact, the components of the COVID-19 vaccine have been in development for more than a decade, and it's been used in other vaccines that have been extremely successful.

What are the common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine include soreness where you received the vaccine, as well as general muscle soreness. After receiving the second dose of some vaccines, a few people also experience some flu-like symptoms such as body aches, chills and fatigue. These side effects resolve quickly though, and are a sign that your body is responding to the vaccine and building your immunity against COVID-19.

How do we know the COVID-19 vaccine won't have long-term side effects?

Your employees may be concerned that because the COVID-19 vaccine has only been around for a short time, the long-term effects are unknown. Thanks to extensive research and clinical trials that conducted before the vaccine was made available to the public, the vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective. Also, the technology that was used to create this vaccine is not new, and lots of studies have been done on vaccines that are very similar to this one. All have shown this is safe for the long term, according to Dr. Chad Rodgers (see details in video).

How was the COVID-19 vaccine created so quickly?

Your employees may be concerned that because the vaccine was created quickly, corners were cut. The COVID-19 vaccine has undergone all the same steps, the same studies and the same clinical trials as any other vaccine. Most importantly, the COVID-19 vaccines have met or exceeded the same rigorous standards all other approved vaccines are subjected to.

The COVID-19 vaccine creation process was safely expedited thanks to several factors.

1. Researchers did not start from scratch in creating the COVID-19 vaccine. Instead, they began with components from already successful vaccines that have been in development and safely used for years.
2. A massive investment of tax dollars allowed pharmaceutical companies to pay more people to work on the vaccine, and to conduct some phases of vaccine development at the same time.
3. The FDA gave the COVID-19 vaccine priority over all other projects, and immediately began reviewing the COVID-19 studies and clinical trials as soon as they were submitted.

If I've had COVID-19, do I still need to get the vaccine?

Yes. Though you will have some natural antibodies after surviving a COVID-19 infection, medical experts have no idea how long those antibodies will last. On the other hand, the COVID-19 vaccine provides longer protection.



Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

The vaccine doesn't contain a live COVID-19 virus, and it is impossible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

Can I stop wearing my mask and social distancing once I've been vaccinated?

In some scenarios, yes. Until the majority of our population is vaccinated, you still need to continue to wear a mask in public, stay at least 6 feet from others in public and avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings. However, after receiving your vaccine you can:

- Spend time with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart
- Spend time with unvaccinated people from one other household indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart if everyone in the other household is at low risk for severe disease
- Refrain from quarantine and testing after being exposed COVID-19 if you don't experience any symptoms

How do I address any skepticism my employees have about the COVID-19 vaccine?

To start, you have to acknowledge your employees' skepticism. You need to understand where it's coming from. And then, you need to show you have their best interest at heart. You need to show you have done your research on the COVID-19 vaccines, and that you are recommending they get it because you believe it is safe and you care about them.

One of the most powerful ways you can address skepticism and mistrust is by leading by example. Give a personal testimonial to your whole company about why you are getting this vaccine. Then, get the vaccine as soon as you can and share your excitement about receiving it when you do.

Sources: *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Heidi Agesilas, MD; Creshelle Nash, MD; Chad Rodgers, MD*