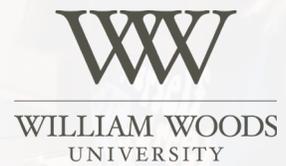




# Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccines



## Vaccines: A short course from Axios

[https://www.axios.com/get-smart/vaccines#/0/vaccines: catch\\_up\\_quick](https://www.axios.com/get-smart/vaccines#/0/vaccines: catch_up_quick)

## It seems this vaccine was really rushed, how safe is it?

While it may seem like things have moved almost too quickly, rest assured that any vaccine made available to the public will have first been thoroughly tested and reviewed by experts. In particular, the gold standard test of a new vaccine — the randomized, placebo-controlled phase III clinical trial — is required by the FDA for considering approval of any new vaccine, regardless of how rapidly it has been developed.

In fact, how fast a COVID-19 vaccine has been brought to the public has more to do with the vaccine development process itself.

1. Researchers were able to leverage previous coronavirus and vaccine research. We already had research on SARS & MERS to go on. Experts weren't starting completely from scratch
2. Hundreds of vaccine candidates are being developed and tested simultaneously. This has been a global community effort. If one vaccine doesn't pass inspection, we move onto the next candidate
3. Most of the vaccines you're used to hearing about typically require loads and loads of virus to first be produced. But mRNA vaccines and other new vaccine technologies don't. Rather, these new classes of vaccines rely on material that can be synthesized in a laboratory — no virus needed. This, among other things, makes them very quick to develop
4. There is unprecedented financial support. A lack of sufficient funding — especially when the technology is new — can slow progress. But, given the need to take control of this pandemic, governments across the globe are financially backing the most promising vaccine candidates — the U.S. included.

CDC safety information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

## What is a mRNA vaccine?

mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbaCxIJ\\_VP4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbaCxIJ_VP4&feature=youtu.be)

## Can a COVID-19 vaccine make me sick?

NO. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently being used in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that the vaccines cannot make you sick with COVID-19

## What are the possible side effects of the vaccine?

All of the COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune system how to recognize & fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms. These symptoms are normal & are a sign that the body is building protection against the virus. Symptoms may include fever, chills, sweats, headache, fatigue, mild body aches, irritation or redness at the injection site.

## Will the vaccine alter my DNA?

NO. COVID-19 mRNA vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept. This means the mRNA cannot affect or interact with our DNA in any way

## Can the vaccine cause infertility?

NO. The COVID-19 vaccine, like other vaccines, works by training our bodies to develop antibodies to fight against the virus that causes COVID-19, to prevent future illness. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of ANY vaccine. People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them

## How protective is the vaccine against the new variants?

Scientists are continually studying this, the mutations and our knowledge is evolving.

[https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/science-in-5/episode-20---covid-19---variants-vaccines?gclid=Cj0KCCQiA4feBBhC9ARIsABp\\_nbVVO4JwCURt9nzYj3YWuZ3UCU22Z1Cm2yEzvk9FmmEGj\\_q7GsJmpBkaAhlMEALw\\_wcB](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/science-in-5/episode-20---covid-19---variants-vaccines?gclid=Cj0KCCQiA4feBBhC9ARIsABp_nbVVO4JwCURt9nzYj3YWuZ3UCU22Z1Cm2yEzvk9FmmEGj_q7GsJmpBkaAhlMEALw_wcB)

## If I have had COVID already do I need a vaccine?

YES. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Learn here why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

## When will the vaccine be available?

Vaccines are available to some populations now. Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is

currently limited, CDC is providing recommendations to federal, state, & local governments about who should be vaccinated first.

Every state has different criteria for distributing the vaccine. The majority of our students in the traditional semester program will be eligible in Phase Three. If you have underlying health conditions, are from an underrepresented population or work in certain industries, you may be eligible earlier.

For information on the Missouri phases and eligibility: <https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/priority/>

## **Where can I get a vaccine?**

There are multiple places you can get signed up to receive notification of vaccine eligibility. To maximize your opportunity for hearing about vaccine locations, sign up in several locations. Students should plan to get the vaccine where they will be living this summer. If you live in Missouri, you can sign up to receive notifications of vaccine events in your area at the link below.

<https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/navigator/>

When you are eligible check with your local pharmacy's, health department and state websites for COVID vaccine availability.

## **Will William Woods have vaccines available?**

NO. At this time, William Woods is not eligible to give COVID -19 vaccines. Students are encouraged to follow the instructions above.

## **Will I still need to quarantine if I have had the complete vaccine?**

NO. Currently, on campus, if you have received the vaccine within the past 90 days of your exposure you will not need to quarantine unless you have symptoms. We anticipate this will extend past the 90 days as more research becomes available.

## **Will I still need to mask and distance if I have been vaccinated?**

YES. At this time, the CDC is still recommending masks and distancing. A vaccinated person may still be able to spread the virus. Research continues in this area. Keep in mind that on average, the vaccine will start providing maximum protection within 2 weeks of being given.

A lower viral load lowers transmissibility: <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/945989>

## **Why should I get the vaccine?**

- Vaccines protect you and others.
- The more vaccinated members we have in our campus community the closer we get to herd immunity which provides greater protection for all. Herd immunity: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/02/18/967462483/how-herd-immunity-works-and-what-stands-in-its-way>
- The vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19 and/or avoid hospitalization.
- COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection.
- Vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic.
- Eventually some airlines and events may require proof of vaccine for access/participation.

## Will William Woods University require students to get the vaccine?

At this time, William Woods does not anticipate requiring the vaccine. However, students are strongly encouraged to get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible.

Those getting the vaccine should upload their vaccine documentation at this link:

[https://www.williamwoods.edu/eforms/student\\_immunizations.aspx](https://www.williamwoods.edu/eforms/student_immunizations.aspx)

Sharing this information will help the university determine herd immunity and allow students with the vaccine proof to not quarantine.

*This document will be updated as new information and guidance becomes available.*

*Last updated: March 9, 2021*