

Do I need to get the COVID-19 vaccine if I've already been infected with COVID-19?



COVID-19 Test
POSITIVE

Disclaimer: The information provided in this document are general recommendations and are not intended as medical advice for individual situations.

COVID-19 can cause serious health consequences

COVID-19 can cause serious illness or death. Here are some quick facts about COVID-19:

- Experts can't predict who will have mild symptoms and who will become very sick.
- Many people who had COVID-19 have long-term health issues after their infection.
- If you get infected, you could pass COVID-19 to people who can't get the vaccine or a person at high risk of getting very sick.

Many people think if they had cold or flu symptoms, it means they had COVID-19. Unless you had a positive test, it is not possible to tell if you had COVID-19 or another type of virus.

A prior COVID-19 infection may not protect you from COVID-19

The level of protection you get from having COVID-19 can vary depending on how sick you were, time since infection, and age. There is no test that can predict how well you are protected against COVID-19 and you could get sick again.

If you had a COVID-19 infection, your protection would normally decrease over time and may be incomplete.

A COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for people who had a previous infection

COVID-19 vaccines help reduce the risk of you getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, or even dying from COVID-19. Getting the recommended COVID-19 vaccine shots, can give most people a high level of protection. If you had a previous COVID-19 infection, the vaccine is still recommended. There is evidence that shows that if you get a COVID-19 vaccine after recovering from the infection it still helps provide additional protection from the virus.

How long do I have to wait after an infection before I get the vaccine?

Experts recommend that you may consider delaying your vaccine by 3 months from when your symptoms started or, if you had no symptoms, when you received a positive test.

Getting your COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most important things you can do to help protect yourself from the virus. The COVID-19 vaccine may not be for everyone. Please consult with your vaccination provider to determine your eligibility.