
Q&A: Flu and COVID-19 vaccines

Can I get the flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time? **Yes.** No waiting period is needed. For the COVID-19 vaccine, it does not matter whether you mix the flu vaccine with the first, second or booster dose. *Note: If you are awaiting test results for COVID-19, do not get a flu vaccine.*

Will I have more or worse side effects if I get the flu and COVID-19 vaccines together or even within a week or two of each other? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), previous experience with other vaccines shows that side effects are generally similar when vaccines are given together (or closely together) versus given alone.

Will my antibody protection (immune response) be the same if I get both vaccines together? Per the CDC, experience with other vaccines shows that the immune response you develop is generally the same when vaccines are given together versus given alone.

What should medical professionals consider when deciding if both vaccines be given together?

- Are you at risk of becoming behind on these shots?
- Are you at a higher risk for contracting these diseases? For example, is there a current outbreak, does your job expose you to lots of people, or do you have a condition such as diabetes or asthma that may make you less able to ward off these diseases if unvaccinated?
- Have you had reactions to either of these vaccines in the past?

If I get both vaccines, will they be given in the same spot? **No.** They will NOT be given in the same spot. You will likely get both vaccines in the upper arm – at least an inch apart – or in different arms.

Will I be monitored after I get both vaccines? **Yes.** You will be asked to stay at the facility where you received the injection for at least 15 minutes. If you have had reactions to any shots before, you should stay for 30 minutes as an extra precaution.

Are the vaccines safe? **Yes.** Both have undergone careful testing and have been approved for use.

Can I receive these vaccines if I am pregnant or breastfeeding? **Yes,** but talk to your doctor about any concerns you may have.

Can I get the flu or COVID-19 just from receiving these vaccines? **No.** That is a myth.

Does the flu vaccine increase my risk of getting COVID-19 or vice versa? **No.** There is no evidence that getting one of these vaccines increases the risk of getting the other disease.

NOTE: Because flu and COVID-19 can have similar symptoms, it is possible to have both illnesses at once – a very serious situation – so getting both vaccines is more important than ever this year.