



Question and Answers About COVID-19 VACCINATION

Preventive vaccination against **COVID-19** may cause doubts and questions. Here are some answers to help you and your family stay healthy.

➤ **Are they injecting me the live virus?**

No. None of the vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (**FDA**) contain the live virus that causes **COVID-19**. Both messenger RNA-based vaccines and viral vector vaccine use other mechanisms for the body to produce the antibodies needed to fight **COVID-19**.

➤ **Is the vaccine approved by the relevant agencies?**

Yes. The vaccines have been evaluated by the **FDA** using strict protocols. Due to the pandemic, three vaccines have been approved for emergency use at this time: **Pfizer-BioNTech**, **Moderna** and **Janssen of Johnson & Johnson**.

➤ **How many doses of vaccine should I receive?**

The number of doses and frequency of administration is different for each vaccine:

- **Pfizer-BioNTech** requires 2 doses 21 days apart.
- **Moderna** requires 2 doses 28 days apart.
- **Janssen of Johnson & Johnson** only requires 1 dose.

➤ **What are the known side effects?**

Commonly reported side effects include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fever and general discomfort. It is normal to feel them.

➤ **When will I get the vaccine?**

The vaccination order has been divided into phases to prioritize those at high risk of infection. You can stay informed through the media and social networks of the Health Department.

➤ **Do I have to wear a mask after I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes. Until the virus is controlled, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend wearing a mask, keeping distance, and washing your hands frequently.

➤ **Why do I need to get vaccinated, instead of continuing with social distancing and the use of mask?**

According to the CDC, to stop the pandemic is necessary to use all the tools available. Vaccines work together with your immune system, so the body is ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.

➤ **If I have already had COVID-19, should I get vaccinated?**

Yes. People who have had COVID-19 may have some protection, known as natural immunity, but it may not last long. Vaccination against COVID-19 will help you develop immunity and in the case of infection, avoid the risk of becoming seriously ill.

➤ **Does immunity from being infected with COVID-19 last longer than protection from COVID-19 vaccine?**

The protection gained after being infected varies depending on the disease and body of a person. Since this virus is new, we do not know how long natural immunity may last. Both natural immunity and vaccine induced immunity are being studied.

➤ **Would my health plan cover the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Plan de Salud Menonita covers the cost of vaccine administration.

⚠ It is important to know that you do not have to pay to be included in a waiting list or for fast access to the vaccine. If you receive a call indicating that is from Medicaid, Medicare, or a provider, asking for personal information to be included in a list to receive the vaccine, that it is fraud. You must notify immediately to: PRMFCU@justicia.pr.gov, SMP@acl.ggs.gov and marissa.whitehouse@acl.hhs.gov or calling (787) 342.5521 or (787) 721-2900 ext. 1560, 1561, 1559.

We must remember that this virus is new, so scientists continue their studies to learn more about it. If you have any health condition that makes you doubt whether you can receive the vaccine, talk to your doctor. As a health plan, we will continue to educate our beneficiaries to keep them informed about this and other health issues.



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References:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirusdisease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>
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