



5 questions about COVID-19 vaccines for people with cancer



COVID-19 vaccines will help end the pandemic, save lives, and get us back to normal day-to-day activities. **Here are answers to common questions about them:**

1 Can I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have cancer?

Yes. Cancer-related medical groups, such as the American Cancer Society, recommend that most cancer patients and survivors get the COVID-19 vaccine. **Ask your doctor when you should get the COVID-19 vaccine.**

If you are getting cancer treatment, you and your doctor can schedule a time to get the vaccine for when it is safe and will be most effective (work best to protect you). Some cancer treatments can weaken your immune system's response and make the vaccine work less well.

2 Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. All 3 available vaccines are considered safe. Clinical trials have tested COVID-19 vaccines in thousands of people. The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in the U.S. carefully reviewed and authorized the vaccines.

After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, you may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection:

- Most people who have side effects have mild side effects like pain where they got the shot, a headache, chills, or fever
- Side effects go away in a few days
- Having a severe side effect is very rare – less than 4 in every million doses

4 Can I get the vaccine if I had COVID-19 and recovered from it?

Yes. Get the vaccine even if you already had COVID-19. It is the best way to keep you and your family safe. If you took certain treatments for COVID-19, you should wait about 90 days before getting the vaccine.

3 Do the COVID-19 vaccines give complete protection?

Clinical trials have shown that the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective (work very well) to protect people from getting seriously ill from COVID-19. This is important because as a cancer patient, you have a higher risk (chance) of severe illness from COVID-19.

To ensure complete protection after you get the vaccine, continue to use safety measures such as:

- Wearing a mask
- Social distancing
- Washing your hands often

5 How much does the vaccine cost?

The vaccine is free, whether you have health insurance or not.



Find a location near you and sign up to get the vaccine at covid19.tn.gov/covid-19-vaccines/

To schedule a visit at Robert E. Hardy Cancer Center, call 615-341-4383