

Dyess COVID Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions

(CAO 19 Mar 2021)

1. **Where can I find the most current information about scheduling my vaccine appointment at Dyess?**
 - a. The Dyess website: <https://www.dyess.af.mil/Coronavirus/>
2. **Where do I go to receive my vaccination at Dyess?**
 - a. Fitness Center Basketball Court.
 - b. Although the initial vaccines were given at the 7th Medical Group, Effective 19 Mar 2021, vaccines will be given at the Fitness Center basketball court.
 - c. Be sure to check the Dyess website for the most current information.
3. **How many people have received the vaccine in the United States to date?**
 - a. More than **77 Million** people have received at least one dose in the United States (23.3% of the U.S. Population) as of 19 Mar 2021
 - b. More than **41 Million** people have been fully vaccinated in the United States (12.6% of the U.S. Population) as of 19 Mar 2021
 - c. Current vaccination numbers reported by the CDC may be found here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>
4. **Why are other Airmen getting the COVID Vaccine?**
 - a. Watch this video to hear from our fellow Airmen: https://www.dvidshub.net/video/782368/covid-19-vaccine-education?fbclid=IwAR1gwwhytN64tuY2ydz-_p5006M057GBC6463a2qhB8zzjpbg-Q8xKd004
5. **How many doses are required for the COVID Vaccine?**
 - a. Two doses are required for both the Pfizer vaccine (3 weeks apart) and the Moderna vaccine (4 weeks apart); the second shot significantly increases your immunity.
 - b. The recently approved Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) vaccine only requires one dose.
6. **How effective is the vaccine at preventing COVID?**
 - a. Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are approximately 95% effective and has proven safe and effective in adults across all age, sex, race, and ethnic categories, as well as in those with underlying medical conditions.
7. **Am I protected immediately from COVID after getting the vaccine?**
 - a. Although an individual receives some protection after the first dose of vaccine, that protection increases to ~95% two weeks after the 2nd dose of vaccine
8. **Is the COVID vaccine mandatory for military members?**

- a. No, the vaccine is 100% voluntary for all military members at this time.

9. Will the COVID vaccine become mandatory for military members?

- a. Under an emergency use authorization, a vaccine can only become mandatory with an order from the President of the United States—this has not occurred to date.
- b. Once the COVID vaccine receives full approval from the FDA (typically 18 months or so for many vaccines), the vaccine could become mandatory for military members, like the flu shot.

10. How does my COVID vaccination status impact my deployability and my IMR?

- a. Vaccination is voluntary and does not impact a member's ability to deploy.
 - i. However, the Air Force needs to know that everyone has been offered the opportunity to receive the COVID vaccine, and the way this is tracked is with the DHA Form 207.
 - ii. Members use the Form 207 to either accept or decline the vaccine which is tracked in your IMR (Individual Medical Readiness)
- b. Your personal IMR may show the following colors for the COVID vaccine:
 - i. Pink: No Form 207 has been collected
 - ii. Blue: Vaccine declined on Form 207
 - iii. Green: 1-2 doses given
 - iv. Yellow: overdue for 2nd dose
- c. Unit Commanders will have visibility on overall unit vaccination status, but will not know individual vaccination status.

11. Where do I turn in a Form 207 to update my IMR?

- a. You can turn your Form 207 in to either:
 - i. Medical staff at the Fitness Center when vaccines are being offered
 - ii. Medical Records at the 7th Medical Group (just left of the Main Check in Desk)
 - iii. Your Shirt or UDM who may deliver batches of 207s directly to the Medical Group
- b. If you wish to change your 207, simply fill out and turn in a new one.

12. Should I get the vaccine if I have already had COVID-19?

- a. Yes, the CDC recommends that you get the vaccine even if you already had COVID.
- b. However, wait until your symptoms resolve and you are no longer on ROM.

13. Will I test positive on a COVID test after getting the COVID vaccine?

- a. No, the COVID vaccine will not affect the results of a diagnostic PCR or antigen test.

14. Can I get the COVID vaccine if I recently had another vaccine?

- a. Yes, but you should wait 14 days between getting the two vaccines.

15. What percentage of vaccines is needed to achieve herd immunity?

- a. We don't know currently, some experts have suggested between 60-85% of communities.

16. Can I stop wearing a mask or social distancing after getting the vaccine?

- a. Not at this time. However, the vaccine plus mask wear plus social distancing should drive COVID cases down much more quickly than mask wear or social distancing alone.
- b. The faster COVID cases go down and stay down, the closer we will get to returning to pre-COVID activities.

17. Do I have to ROM as a close contact if I am fully vaccinated?

- a. No, the CDC says that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine (e.g. ROM) after being exposed to a COVID positive individual for at least three months, provided that they do not develop symptoms.
- b. A person becomes fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the 2nd dose.

18. I'm pregnant, can I get the vaccine?

- a. COVID vaccines have not yet been studied in pregnant women.
- b. However, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recommends that vaccines not be withheld from pregnant patients who would otherwise be eligible to receive the vaccine in their priority group (i.e. healthcare workers are the first group).
- c. Although the overall risk of severe COVID is low, there is an increased risk of ICU admission, ventilator-support and death in pregnant women.
- d. ACOG says a conversation with a healthcare provider may be useful but is not required, nor is a pregnancy test required, to get the vaccine.
- e. ACOG also recommends vaccination in those actively trying to become pregnant. (See notes for web address)

19. I'm breastfeeding, can I get the vaccine?

- a. ACOG recommends the COVID vaccine for lactating individuals when eligible in their priority group.

20. Can Children get the vaccine at Dyess?

- a. Not at this time. You must be 18 years of age or older to receive the vaccine at Dyess.

21. What are High Risk Medical Conditions that increase my risk of severe COVID?

- a. See below, but check out the CDC website for a more detailed and current list: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>
- b. The following conditions are **KNOWN** to increase risk of severe illness from COVID: **Obesity (BMI>30), Smoking, Pregnancy, Type 2 Diabetes, Cancer, Chronic Kidney**

Disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), **Down Syndrome, Heart conditions, Immunocompromised state** from solid organ transplant, **Sickle cell disease**

- c. The following conditions **MIGHT** increase risk of severe illness from COVID: **Overweight** (BMI >25), **High blood pressure, Asthma** (moderate to severe), **Cerebrovascular disease** (affecting blood vessels in the brain), **Cystic fibrosis, Type 1 Diabetes, Weakened immune system, Neurologic conditions, Liver disease, Pulmonary Fibrosis, Thalassemia** (type of blood disorder)

22. When can High Risk individuals get the vaccine at Dyess?

- a. Adults 18 years and older with high risk conditions are currently eligible to receive their vaccine at Dyess AFB in the Tier 1C group.

23. What has been done to ensure the vaccines are safe?

- a. Vaccines and therapeutics to prevent and treat diseases are developed in stages.
- i. In Phase 1 Trials, researchers test a new drug or treatment in a small group of people for the first time.
 - ii. In Phase 2 Trials, the new drug or treatment is given to a larger group of people to see if it is effective and to evaluate its safety further.
 - iii. In Phase 3 Trials, the experimental study drug or treatment is given to very large groups of people.
 - iv. Vaccines are continuously monitored for safety after the vaccine is authorized for distribution.
- b. **V-SAFE** is a CDC app where vaccinated individuals can report side effects they experience directly to the CDC.

24. What about severe allergic reactions like anaphylaxis?

- a. Severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, can occur after any vaccination
- b. Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 is very rare (~2-5 people per million); for perspective, that is 1 per 200,000 which is less than the population of Abilene.
- c. Even when they do occur, these reactions almost always occur within 30 minutes of vaccination and the vaccine team is fully trained to respond with appropriate treatment.
- d. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/adverse-events.html>

25. Has anyone died from the COVID Vaccine?

- a. No, not according to the CDC, see below and the hyperlink for more information.
- b. "Over 109 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered in the United States from December 14, 2020, through March 15, 2021. During this time, VAERS received 1,913 reports of death (0.0018%) among people who received a COVID-19 vaccine. CDC and FDA physicians review each case report of death as soon as notified and CDC requests medical records to further assess reports. **A review of available clinical information including death certificates, autopsy, and medical records revealed no**

evidence that vaccination contributed to patient deaths. CDC and FDA will continue to investigate reports of adverse events, including deaths, reported to VAERS.”

- c. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/adverse-events.html>

26. Where can I find more information about the COVID vaccine?

- a. The Moderna COVID Vaccine Fact Sheet found here:
<https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua>
- b. The CDC has a lot of good information and answers many FAQs here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

27. What if I have another question about the COVID Vaccine?

- a. Email questions to usaf.dyess-tx.7-mdg.mbx.covid-vaccine@mail.mil
- b. FAQs may be conglomerated and addressed in upcoming weeks and months.

28. Can I speak with a provider if I still have questions?

- a. Yes! You can book a vaccine appointment and speak directly with a provider about any questions you may have before deciding to accept or decline the vaccine.
- b. You may decline the vaccine at any point up until the vaccine has been administered.