

COVID-19 vaccine information for people with kidney disease

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given emergency permission for three* vaccines to prevent the serious complications of COVID-19. These vaccines are from three companies: Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson. Here are answers to some common questions people who have kidney disease or who are living with a kidney transplant may have about the COVID-19 vaccine.

It is important to keep in mind the answers to these common questions are general. You should always make sure to talk to your doctor about any questions you may have about the COVID-19 vaccine.

*As of 4/13/2021, the federal government has paused the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine out of an abundance of caution. More information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov>.

Will the vaccine protect me from COVID-19?

Patients with kidney disease, including those on dialysis and living with a kidney transplant are at higher risk for severe complications from COVID-19. While there is limited data on the effectiveness of the vaccine in patients on di

Results from the Pfizer clinical trial showed their COVID-19 vaccine is 95% effective. The Moderna vaccine showed it is 94.1% effective in preventing COVID-19. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine showed it is 85% effective against severe complications from COVID-19 and 100% effective against hospitalizations and deaths without significant geographical differences.

There is limited information on the effectiveness of the vaccine in patients on dialysis or living with a kidney transplant. However, any protection from COVID-19 is very important for kidney patients. Check with your doctor to see what their recommendations may be for you.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for me?

There is no specific safety information for people with chronic kidney disease (CKD), those on dialysis, those living with a kidney transplant or for living donors. However, millions of doses have now been given to people in each of these groups, with no adverse effects reported. Check with your doctor to know if the COVID-19 vaccine is safe for you.

Why do I still need to wear a mask and social distance even after I get the vaccine?

The vaccine prevents people from developing severe illness from COVID-19. Experts are not yet sure if people who have the vaccine can spread COVID-19 to others even if they are protected from getting the virus themselves. Until scientists can be sure whether vaccinated people can spread COVID-19, the CDC says even vaccinated people should wear a mask, wash hands often, and stay at least six feet away from others.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccines, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions page at: www.KidneyFund.org/vaccine.