

COVID-19 Vaccines: Your Questions Answered

Teck

The development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines has generated questions from employees. Below are some of the most common questions about the vaccine, with responses from Dr. Joshua Tepper, Teck's Medical Director.



The ongoing rollout of COVID-19 vaccines is leading to growing optimism for the future. Vaccines are in various stages of deployment in all of our operating jurisdictions and becoming increasingly available.

Getting vaccinated is a critical part of progressing to a post-pandemic world, and everyone across Teck is strongly encouraged to keep up to date on the rollout of vaccines in your region and—when available and if you are medically able—to get vaccinated, both for your own health and for the health of your co-workers and community.

1. Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Yes. The approved COVID-19 vaccines are very safe. Because they are crucial in reducing the spread of COVID-19, these vaccines have been prioritized and developed quicker than average while still following all the necessary steps—based on decades of proven science and including extensive testing. More than 150 million vaccines have already been safely administered worldwide, with millions more being delivered every day.

2. Do COVID-19 vaccines work?

Yes. The approved COVID-19 vaccines work very well. They have a very high efficacy level, leading to far fewer people getting sick and dramatically reducing the chances of dying. But we need to be vigilant and make sure more people get vaccinated in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect ourselves, our loved ones and those who are most vulnerable.

3. How do these vaccines work?

Like all vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines stimulate the body's immune system, getting it ready to fight the COVID-19 virus. This way, when you are infected with the virus, your body can immediately keep you from getting sick.

4. How long do these vaccines last?

As these vaccines are new, we currently do not know how long immunity from COVID-19 will last. Experts are continuing to monitor how long immunity lasts and how effective the vaccines are at addressing the emerging COVID-19 variants. What we do know is that the vaccines are working very well.

5. What are the side effects of receiving the vaccine?

Most side effects of the vaccine are short-lived and not severe: tenderness or mild pain at the injection site, muscle pain, headache or fever. These symptoms typically don't last more than two days. Any over-the-counter pain and fever medications will help improve symptoms.

6. What if I have had a major, allergic reaction to a vaccine before?

It is extremely rare to have a severe allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccines. Before getting vaccinated, you will be asked to sign a consent form that will cover key considerations, such as a history of allergic reactions. If you have questions about the COVID vaccine, it's important that you speak to a medical professional.

7. Can the vaccines change my DNA or give me COVID?

No. The COVID-19 vaccines will not change your DNA or impact your health in any way. While you might have a sore arm or feel a bit unwell for a couple days after getting vaccinated, you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccines.

8. Why should I get vaccinated if everyone else does?

While a vaccine will protect the person who gets vaccinated, they may still be able to give you COVID-19 if you are not vaccinated, putting you at risk of serious illness. Right now, getting the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, your co-workers and community.

9. If I've had COVID-19, do I still need a vaccine?

Yes. While having COVID-19 gives you some immunity for a limited time, you will still need the vaccine to be properly protected.

10. If I am vaccinated, will I still have to wear a mask at work?

Yes, you will need to continue wearing a mask at work for now.

11. Does Teck require employees to have a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccination is not mandatory for Teck employees or contractors. However, we strongly encourage you to be vaccinated to protect yourself, your loved ones and those who are most vulnerable.

12. Where can I find more information on COVID-19 vaccines?

If you are looking for more information on COVID-19 vaccines, we recommend connecting with a medical professional. You can also visit the many trusted online sources of information, including official government websites and major public healthcare organizations, like hospitals and medical universities.

Online sources to consider:



Canada

Government of Canada
[Vaccines for COVID-19](#)

Province of B.C.
[COVID-19 Immunization Plan](#)
[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

Province of Alberta
[COVID-19 vaccine program](#)

Chile

Government of Chile
[National COVID-19 Vaccination Plan](#)

Government of Chile
[Step by Step, We Take Care of Ourselves](#)

Government of Chile
[Ministry of Health](#)

U.S.

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

State of Alaska
[COVID-19 Vaccine Status Update](#)

State of Washington
[COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

International

World Health Organization
[COVID-19 Vaccines](#)