

CoV-*I*N-SIGHTS: Evidence-Based Answers to FAQs

Director General Medical Services (Navy)



FAQ # 04 (05 May 2021): COVID-19 VACCINES

1. What are the contraindications to COVID vaccine?

The contraindication for taking COVID vaccines is in persons with a history of an **anaphylactic** or **allergic reaction** to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Those with immediate or delayed onset anaphylaxis or allergic reaction to vaccines or injectable therapies, pharmaceutical products, or food items, can take the vaccine, but with precautions, under medical supervision.^{1,2,3}

2. Is it safe to take COVID vaccine while being pregnant or lactating?

There is currently limited data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in this group as pregnant and lactating women have not been included in the clinical trials. However, based on how these vaccines work in the body, experts believe they are **unlikely to pose a risk** for individuals who are pregnant or lactating.^{4,5,6}

3. It is understood that one needs to undertake caution in vaccinating persons with a history of bleeding or coagulation disorder. How does a person know if he/she has a coagulation disorder? What tests can be conducted?

There are a **few bleeding disorders** like 'haemophilia' where one should take the vaccine under the supervision of their treating physician. Patients who are admitted in hospital or ICU and have bleeding problems should delay the vaccination till they are discharged. However, several people with heart and brain disorders, on blood thinners like aspirin and antiplatelet drugs, can continue with their medicines and have the vaccines. For them, vaccines are absolutely safe.¹

4. Will COVID vaccines provide long term protection?

Because COVID vaccines have only been developed in the past few months, it is too early to know the duration of protection of COVID-19 vaccines. Research is ongoing to answer this question. However, it is encouraging that available data suggest that most people who recover from COVID-19 develop an immune response that provides at least some period of protection against reinfection – although it is still not certain how strong this protection is, and how long it lasts.^{1,3}

5. After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. The vaccines currently recommended for use either act against the spike protein (COVISHIELD and SPUTNIK) or are prepared from killed virus (COVAXIN) and will **NOT** test positive on RTPCR/Rapid Antigen tests. If the body develops an immune response to vaccination, which is the goal, one may test positive on antibody tests.

6. **Can a person who has suffered from COVID-19 (confirmed or suspected) infection be vaccinated?**

A person currently suffering from COVID-19 infection should defer vaccination for 14 days after complete resolution symptoms so that they are non-infectious and will not infect others at the vaccination site. After full recovery, such individuals should wait for **04 to 08 weeks** (not corroborated by any evidence but recommended in guidelines) before getting the vaccine.^{1,3}

7. **When can a person with past h/o receiving plasma therapy or monoclonal antibodies take the vaccine?**

In case an individual had received plasma therapy or monoclonal antibodies, it is recommended to **defer vaccination for 90 days**.¹

8. **What is a Break-Through Case?**

A Break-Through Case is a person who has been **tested COVID positive ≥ 14 days after completing two doses of COVID-19 vaccine**.¹ As per available data till date, breakthrough cases have occurred only in a small percentage of people. No unexpected patterns (severity or death) have been identified among people with reported vaccine breakthrough infections.

9. **Will COVID vaccines reduce the severity and death due to COVID?**

The COVID-19 vaccines create a broad immune response and have been found to be effective at preventing serious illness and death. It is strongly recommended that all eligible people get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as one is available to them.^{1,2,3}

References.

1. Center for Disease Control. [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals | CDC](#)
2. MoHFW. [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs \(mohfw.gov.in\)](#)
3. World Health Organisation. [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Vaccines \(who.int\)](#)
4. [Information about COVID-19 Vaccines for People who Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding | CDC](#)
5. Tom T. Shimabukuro et al. Preliminary Findings of mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine Safety in Pregnant Persons. NEJM 21 April 2021
6. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Available from [Vaccinating Pregnant and Lactating Patients Against COVID-19 | ACOG](#)

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