



What about Long-Term Side Effects?

The CDC says that it is unlikely for people to get long-term side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine. There are years of research and vaccine safety monitoring on other vaccines that show side effects almost always happen within six weeks of getting a vaccine. For this reason, the FDA required each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines to be studied for at least two months after the final dose. (The FDA approval for the Pfizer vaccine came after 44,000 people in the clinical trial were followed 4-6 months.)

On the other hand, some people who had COVID are now experiencing post-COVID conditions, also known as “long COVID”, “long-haul COVID” and “chronic COVID”. These are a wide range of new, returning, or ongoing health problems that people can experience four or more weeks after first being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Adults and children are suffering from Long COVID symptoms even when illness is mild. These conditions can have different types and combinations of health problems for different lengths of time. CDC and experts around the world are working to learn more about short- and long-term health effects associated with COVID-19, who gets them, and why.

