

# SICKLE CELL AND COVID-19 VACCINATION



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## Important things to consider for people with sickle cell disease.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lists sickle cell disease (SCD) as one of the populations vulnerable to severe COVID-19.
- COVID-19 can cause severe problems in people with SCD, especially when compared to the same age in the general population.
- The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA) recommends that people with sickle cell disease receive COVID-19 vaccination.
- The benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks for people with SCD. Vaccination is worthwhile compared to the risks of having COVID-19 disease in people with SCD.
- Consult with your doctor or health care team about whether your personal medical conditions causes an exception to this recommendation.

Don't relax your precautions right after getting the vaccine. You might still get infected in the few weeks following vaccination. You could still give infection to those around you.



**WEAR A MASK  
COVERING YOUR  
NOSE & MOUTH**



**WASH YOUR  
HANDS OFTEN**



**MAINTAIN  
PHYSICAL  
DISTANCE**



**AVOID CROWDS  
AND PEOPLE  
WHO ARE ILL**



## How does the vaccine work?

- COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for our cells to learn how to destroy COVID-19.
- Nearly all COVID-19 vaccines being studied in the United States require **TWO** shots. The first shot starts building protection, but everyone must come back a few weeks later for the second one to get the most protection the vaccine can offer.



## Is the vaccine safe?

- Like all vaccines, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have been rigorously tested for safety before being authorized for use in the United States.
- mRNA vaccines do not contain a live virus and do not carry a risk of causing disease in the vaccinated person.

More than 4 billion  
COVID-19 vaccines have  
been given worldwide.



## What are possible side effects of the vaccine?

- Most people experience no side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Some people have soreness in their arms or in their lymph nodes
- Some people have noted achiness/fevers/chills especially following the second dose. Inform your doctor if you experience these symptoms.

