

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs:

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY RESIDENTS, 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

Were older adults included in the testing of the COVID-19 vaccine, and are there any unique side effects for seniors from the vaccine?

Yes, older adults were included in all clinical trials, and the vaccine was found to be effective for this population as well. Older adults were also found to have decreased and less-pronounced side effects associated with the vaccine compared with other populations.

Is the vaccine safe for individuals who are immunosuppressed?

Per the CDC, the vaccine is considered safe for individuals who are immunosuppressed due to autoimmune conditions, with HIV or who take immunosuppressant medications. However, it is recommended you consult with your physician for guidance.

Are there any contraindications to receiving the vaccine?

Per the CDC, the only contraindication to receiving the vaccine is history of severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine or to any of its components (including polyethylene glycol or polysorbate). A full list of ingredients is available here:

www.fda.gov/media/144414/download

If I experience side effects after receiving the vaccine, does it mean the vaccine gave me COVID-19?

No. The presence of side effects does not mean the vaccine gave you COVID-19. In fact, mRNA vaccines cannot give someone COVID-19 because the vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. Any side effects are a sign that your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to do – working and building up protection against disease. In other words, if you feel some discomfort, this means the vaccine is doing its job.

More info at: PublicHealthSBC.org