COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. They cannot give you the disease. The vaccine is teaching your body how to fight COVID-19 if you are exposed.

Side effects are normal reactions. They may affect your ability to work the next day. For most people, they only last a day or two.

Common side effects include:

- Pain and swelling of the arm
- Fever or chills
- Tiredness
- Headache

If your arm is sore after the shot, apply a clean, cool wet cloth to the area. Use or exercise your arm.

To reduce discomfort from fever, drink plenty of liquids and dress lightly.

If you have health questions after your shot, call your doctor. If you have pain or discomfort, ask them about taking an over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, call 911. Signs of a reaction include hives, swelling and trouble breathing.

Information and images are adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For more information about COVID-19 visit cdc.gov/coronavirus