Key Messages & Q&A for Partners – v-safe

KEY MESSAGES

- **v-safe** is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.

- **v-safe** is now available in the following languages: English, Spanish, simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

- **v-safe** in these additional languages provides the same features as **v-safe** in English.

- **v-safe** uses text messaging and web surveys to check in with vaccine recipients following COVID-19 vaccination.

- **v-safe** also provides telephone follow-up to anyone who reports a symptom or health condition for which they seek medical attention.

- **v-safe** participants will receive text messaging, web surveys, and follow-up phone calls in the language they choose to sign-up with.

- **v-safe** can be accessed in the language desired via vsafe.cdc.gov.

Q&A

1. **What languages are available in v-safe?**

   - The **v-safe** platform is available in English, Spanish, Korean, simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese. Information sheets also are available in each language. It is important to note that it is necessary to use the ENGLISH-spelled website vsafe.cdc.gov to enroll.

2. **What does v-safe do with my data? (How safe is my data, who has access to it)**

   - Your personal information in **v-safe** is protected so that it stays confidential and private. To the extent **v–safe** uses existing information systems managed by CDC, FDA, and other federal agencies, the systems employ strict security measures appropriate for the data's level of sensitivity.

3. **Why is this the first time I've heard of v-safe? Is it new?**

   - Yes, **v-safe** is a new COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring system that CDC launched in December 2020. **V-safe** is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Through **v-safe**, you can quickly tell CDC if you have any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Depending on your answers, someone from CDC may call to check on you and get more information. **V-safe** will also remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one.

4. **I've never been asked to report side effects from any other vaccine I've gotten. Is it because you think it's not safe?**

   - COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. Tens of millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. **V-safe** is an additional layer of safety monitoring, giving CDC and FDA the

ability to evaluate COVID-19 vaccine safety in real time and make sure COVID-19 vaccines are as safe as possible.

- **V-safe** uses text messaging and web surveys from CDC to check in with vaccine recipients who choose to enroll following COVID-19 vaccination. **V-safe** also provides second vaccine dose reminders if needed, and telephone follow up to anyone who reports a symptom or health condition for which they seek medical attention.

5. **Why should I use v-safe? Why should I continue to use v-safe?**

- By participating in **v-safe**, you can tell CDC if you have any side effects after COVID-19 vaccination. This information helps CDC monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in near real time. If any serious health problems are reported, they can be quickly investigated by CDC's medical experts and scientists. In addition, traditional vaccine safety systems, such as Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), will also be used to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines. These systems are part the nation's comprehensive approach to vaccine safety.

6. **Why are you asking questions about pregnancy?**

If you are pregnant, you may choose to be vaccinated when it's available to you. There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problem with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. However, data are limited about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for people who are pregnant. CDC established the v-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry to learn more about this issue.

The registry is collecting health information from people who received COVID-19 vaccination in the periconception period (within 30 days before last menstrual period) or during pregnancy. The information is critical to helping individuals and their healthcare providers make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccination. Participation is **voluntary**, and **participants may opt out at any time**.

7. **What are you going to do if I tell you I had an adverse event? What if you learn lots of people have adverse events?**

Depending on your answers, someone from CDC may call to check on you and get more information. **V-safe** will also remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one.

Continued vaccine safety monitoring can pick up on adverse events that may not have been seen in clinical trials. If an unexpected adverse event is seen, experts quickly study it further to assess whether it is a true safety concern. Experts then decide whether changes are needed in U.S. vaccine recommendations. This monitoring is critical to help ensure that the benefits continue to outweigh the risks for people who receive vaccines.

8. **My employer is providing my COVID-19 vaccination. Will my employer be able to see the answer I give in v-safe?**

No, your employer will not be able to see the answer you give to **v-safe**. Your personal information in **v-safe** is protected so that it stays confidential and private.

9. **Will CDC give me medical advice?**

V-safe does not provide medical advice. The purpose of **v-safe** is to collect information about a vaccine recipient's health following vaccination. If you have symptoms or health problems with COVID-19 vaccination that concern you, please contact your healthcare provider.

10. **If I enter side effects into v-safe, does it alert my doctor?**

    No, **v-safe** does not alert you doctor of side effects you report into **v-safe**. If you have symptoms or health problems that concern you at any time following COVID-19 vaccination, please contact your healthcare provider. In addition, if you have not been able to report your post-vaccination experience in **v-safe** (because of a missed or expired health check-in), you can also report adverse events after vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).

11. **Can v-safe give me medical advice about a health problem I think is related to my COVID-19 vaccination?**

    V-safe does not provide medical advice. If you have symptoms or health problems that concern you at any time following COVID-19 vaccination, please contact your healthcare provider. In addition, if you have not been able to report your post-vaccination experience in **v-safe** (because of a missed or expired health check-in), you can also report adverse events after vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).