

# Bell's Palsy

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*"I heard there are real cases of people developing Bell's Palsy after getting the COVID vaccine. I do not trust the vaccine after hearing about this very serious side effect."*

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"I understand how this information would cause you fear and concern. I recommend getting the Covid vaccine to help prevent catching Covid and experiencing the worst impacts of the virus that could actually put you at an increased risk for other health concerns. There have been some reports of symptoms of Bell's Palsy after COVID vaccines, but I want to reassure you that these cases are very rare. In one study of 989,144 patients, just 44 developed Bell's Palsy after vaccination.<sup>59</sup> None of the 44 cases were severe or life threatening. Also, the level of Bell's Palsy after COVID-19 vaccination was equal to that after flu vaccination before the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>60</sup> A lot of times, people already have a risk factor for Bell's Palsy, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, or respiratory infections. On the off chance this side effect were to occur, it can be treated, anticipating improvement within a few weeks."