COVID-19

ACT NOW!

WEAR A MASK   STAY 6 FEET APART   AVOID CROWDS

Frequently Asked Questions about v-safe

Updated Jan. 27, 2021   Print

v-safe^{SM}
after vaccination health checker

How can I participate in v-safe?

Once you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you can enroll in **v-safe** using your smartphone. Your healthcare provider will give you an information sheet on **v-safe** that explains how to register and get started. **V-safe** is free to use — you will need a smartphone with a modern browser and access to the internet to participate. Participation is voluntary and you can opt out at any time. To opt out, simply text "STOP" when **v-safe** sends you a text message. You can also start **v-safe** again by texting "START."

> ! If you would like to participate in **v-safe**, you must sign up within 42 days of getting your first COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Other v-safe Resources

V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker　〉

Troubleshooting　〉

If I don't have a smartphone, but was given a COVID-19 vaccine, can I still participate in v-safe?

Currently, **v-safe** can only be accessed with a smartphone — a mobile phone that has a touchscreen, can receive text messages, and has access to the Internet. If you cannot participate in **v-safe**, you can submit reports of adverse events following vaccination to VAERS ⧉ , a vaccine safety monitoring system managed by CDC and FDA. If you need additional help submitting a report, you may call the VAERS toll-free information line at 1-800-822-7967 or send an email to info@vaers.org.

I can't find v-safe in either Google Play or the Apple Store. Is it not available on those platforms?

V-safe is not an app you have to download — it's a secure, online tool you can access with any smartphone. There is no charge to use **v-safe**, other than the normal carrier rates for your phone plan. Once you sign up, **v-safe** sends you text messages that links to short online surveys. These surveys, or health check-ins, allow you to tell CDC how you are feeling after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone with a smart phone – Apple, Android, etc. – who received a COVID-19 vaccine in the United States can participate in **v-safe**. Instructions on how to enroll 🔺 [700KB, 2 pages] (including the registration website) are provided at the time of your vaccination. If you have any questions or problems enrolling in **v-safe**, you can call CDC-INFO at 800-232-4636 for help. Also, if you are unable or choose not to participate in **v-safe**, you can report adverse events following vaccination to VAERS ↗ .

How long do v-safe check-ins last?

During the first week after you get your vaccine, **v-safe** will send you a text message each day to ask how you are doing. Then you will get check-in messages once a week for up to 5 weeks. The questions **v-safe** asks take less than 5 minutes to answer.

If you need a second dose of vaccine, **v-safe** will provide a new 6-week check-in process so you can share your second-dose vaccine experience as well. Finally, you'll receive check-ins 3, 6, and 12 months after your final dose of vaccine.

Is my health information safe?

Yes. 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.

How does my participation in v-safe make a difference?

By participating in v-safe, you can tell CDC if you have any side effects after a COVID-19 vaccine. 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.

What if I have a health problem I think is related to my COVID-19 vaccination between v-safe check-ins or after I've finished v-safe?

If at any time you have symptoms or health problems following COVID-19 vaccination that concern you, please contact your healthcare provider. In addition to your participation in **v-safe**, you can also report your experience to VAERS ↗ .

Will v-safe give me guidance as to whether I should go to work based on my symptoms after I receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

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 are experiencing symptoms that are causing you concern, please contact your healthcare provider.

Need help with v-safe?

Troubleshooting

Frequently Asked Questions

Live v-safe support:
Available Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET
Call 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY 888-232-6348

Email:

Contact Form