

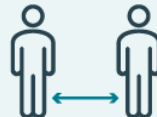


## COVID-19

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# Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination

Updated Feb. 25, 2021

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Below are answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination. CDC also has information for busting common vaccine myths available in [facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Get answers to other frequently asked questions about:

- [Healthcare professional questions and answers](#)
- [Vaccine Administration Management System \(VAMS\)](#)
- [Preparing for COVID-19 vaccination at long-term care facilities](#)
- [V-safe after vaccination health checker](#)

## How Do I Get a Vaccine?

CDC makes recommendations for [who should get the vaccine first](#), then each state makes its own plan. **Choose your state or territory below to find your health department:**

Select State / Territory ▾

## When will the vaccine be available to me?

Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is currently limited, CDC is providing recommendations to federal, state, and local governments about who should be vaccinated first. CDC's recommendations are based on those of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an independent panel of medical and public health experts.

Each state has its own plan for deciding which groups of people will be vaccinated first. You can contact your [state health department](#) for more information on its plan for COVID-19 vaccination.

The goal is for everyone to be able easily to get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. As the vaccine supply increases, more groups will be added to receive vaccination. Learn more about [CDC recommendations for who should get vaccinated first](#).

## What are the most common side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

After getting vaccinated, you may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. The most common side effects are pain and swelling in the arm where you received the shot. In addition, you may have fever, chills, tiredness, and headache. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Learn more about [what to expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine](#).

## If I am pregnant, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. If you are pregnant, you may choose to be vaccinated when it's available to you. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problem with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta.

People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them. There is no evidence that fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. There is no routine recommendation for taking a pregnancy test before you get a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with a healthcare provider may help you make an informed decision. Learn more at [vaccination considerations for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding](#).

## How long does protection from a COVID-19 vaccine last?

We don't know how long protection lasts for those who are vaccinated. What we do know is that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.

Experts are working to learn more about both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity. CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

## Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have gotten 2 doses of the vaccine?

Yes. To protect yourself and others, follow these recommendations:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Experts are also looking at how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities. We also don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself. CDC will continue to update this page as we learn more.

Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for [how to protect yourself and others](#) will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19. Additional information can be found at key things to know about the COVID-19 vaccine. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/keythingstoknow.html>.

## If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. That's because experts do not yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. Learn more about [why getting vaccinated is a safer way to build protection](#) than getting infected.

If you were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Experts are still learning more about how long vaccines protect against COVID-19 in real-world conditions. CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

## What are the ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines?

The ingredients in currently available COVID-19 vaccines include mRNA, lipids, salts, sugars, and buffers. Buffers help maintain the stability of the pH solution. Vaccine ingredients can vary by manufacturer. To learn more about the ingredients in authorized COVID-19 vaccines, see

- [Information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Information about the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#)

## Who is paying for the COVID-19 vaccines?

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the United States. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for vaccine administration fees by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay a vaccine administration fee.

## How many shots of COVID-19 vaccine will be needed?

With both COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, you will need 2 shots to get the most protection. The timing between your first and second shot depends on which vaccine you received.

- [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) doses should be given 3 weeks (21 days) apart
- [Moderna](#) doses should be given 1 month (28 days) apart

You should **get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 1-month interval as possible**. However, your second dose may be given up to [6 weeks \(42 days\) after the first dose, if necessary](#). You should not get the second dose earlier than the recommended interval.

## If I have an underlying condition, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

People with underlying medical conditions can receive the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines as long as they have not had [an immediate or severe allergic reaction](#) to a COVID-19 vaccine or to any of the ingredients in the vaccine. Learn more about vaccination [considerations for people with underlying medical conditions](#). Vaccination is an important consideration for adults of any age with **certain underlying medical conditions** because they are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

## Can I get vaccinated against COVID-19 while I am currently sick with COVID-19?



No. People with COVID-19 who have symptoms should wait to be vaccinated until they have recovered from their illness and have met the [criteria](#) for discontinuing isolation; those without symptoms should also wait until they [meet the criteria](#) before getting vaccinated. This guidance also applies to people who get COVID-19 before getting their second dose of vaccine.

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Last Updated Feb. 25, 2021

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)