



## COVID-19

# Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination

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**NOTICE:** HHS [announced a plan](#) to begin offering COVID-19 vaccine booster shots this fall. CDC's independent advisory committee, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, will continue to meet and discuss data on the evolution of the pandemic and the use of COVID-19 vaccines. ACIP will make further recommendations on the use of boosters for the public after a thorough review of the evidence.

- Below are answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19 vaccination.
- [Bust myths and learn the facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#)

### What if I lost my vaccination card?

If you have lost your vaccination card or don't have a copy, contact your vaccination provider site where you received your vaccine to access your vaccination record. [Learn more](#) about how you can locate your vaccination provider.

### 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 because:

- Research has not yet shown how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you recover from COVID-19.
- Vaccination helps protect you even if you've already had COVID-19.

Evidence is emerging that people **get better protection by being fully vaccinated** compared with having had COVID-19. [One study](#) showed that unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are more than 2 times as likely than fully vaccinated people to get COVID-19 again.

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.

If you or your child has a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults or children ([MIS-A](#) or [MIS-C](#)), consider delaying vaccination until you or your child have recovered from being sick and for 90 days after the date of diagnosis of MIS-A or MIS-C. Learn more about the [clinical considerations](#) for people with a history of multisystem MIS-C or MIS-A.

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

**Related pages:**

- [Benefits of Getting Vaccinated](#)
- [Preparing for Your COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

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### Is it safe for my child to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

**Yes.** Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are [safe](#) and [effective](#). Like adults, children may have some [side effects](#) after COVID-19 vaccination. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. [Children 12 years and older](#) are now eligible to get vaccinated against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines have been used under the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history, including studies in children 12 years and older. Your child cannot get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine.

**Related page:**

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

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### Why should my child get vaccinated against COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccination can help protect your child from getting COVID-19. Although fewer children have been sick with COVID-19 compared to adults, [children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19](#), can get sick from COVID-19, and can spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others. Getting your child vaccinated helps to protect your child and your family. Vaccination is now [recommended for everyone 12 years and older](#). Currently, the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) is the only one available to children 12 years and older.

**Related page:**

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#)

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

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](#)
- [Information about the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Ingredients Included in COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

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### Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I am fully vaccinated?

[After you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19](#) you can resume many activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except:

- if you are indoors in public and you are in an area [of substantial or high transmission](#)

- if you are indoors in public and you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.
- or where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.

## Can I choose which COVID-19 vaccine I get?

Yes. All currently authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines are [safe](#) and [effective](#), and CDC does not recommend one vaccine over another. The most important decision is to get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic.

People should be aware that a risk of a rare condition called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) has been reported following vaccination with the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine. TTS is a serious condition that involves blood clots with low platelet counts. This problem is rare, and most reports were in women between 18 and 49 years old. For women 50 years and older and men of any age, this problem is even more rare. There are other COVID-19 vaccine options available for which this risk has not been seen (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna).

Learn more about [your COVID-19 vaccination](#), including how to find a vaccination location, what to expect at your appointment, and more.

### Related page:

- [Your Vaccination](#)

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

Yes, COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including [people who are pregnant](#), breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. You might want to have a conversation with your healthcare provider about COVID-19 vaccination. While such a conversation might be helpful, it is not required before vaccination. Learn more about [vaccination considerations for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding](#).

If you are pregnant and have received a COVID-19 vaccine, we encourage you to enroll in [v-safe](#), CDC's smartphone-based tool that provides personalized health check-ins after vaccination. A [v-safe pregnancy registry](#) has been established to gather information on the health of pregnant people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

### Related pages:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Pregnant or Breastfeeding People](#)
- [Monitoring Systems for Pregnant People](#)
- [V-safe Pregnancy Registry](#)

## 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.

### Related page:

- [Vaccines Work](#)

## How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine will I need to get?

The number of doses needed depends on which vaccine you receive. To get the most protection:

- Two [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) vaccine doses should be given 3 weeks (21 days) apart.
- Two [Moderna](#) vaccine doses should be given 1 month (28 days) apart.
- Johnson & Johnsons Jansen ([J&J/Janssen](#)) COVID-19 vaccine requires only one dose.

If you receive a vaccine that requires two doses, you should **get your second shot as close to the recommended 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.

People with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should [receive an additional dose](#) of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2 doses.

### Related pages:

- [Pfizer-BioNTech](#)
- [Moderna](#)
- [Johnson & Johnson / Janssen](#)
- [Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)

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

People with underlying medical conditions can receive a COVID-19 vaccine 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.

### Related pages:

- [Underlying Medical Conditions](#)
- [People at High Risk](#)
- [People with Allergies](#)

## 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.

### Related pages:

- [When to Quarantine](#)

- [Ending Home Isolation](#)
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## Answers to more questions about:

- [Healthcare Professionals and COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Vaccines.gov](#)
- [Vaccine Administration Management System \(VAMS\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination in Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- [V-safe after Vaccination Health Checker](#)

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