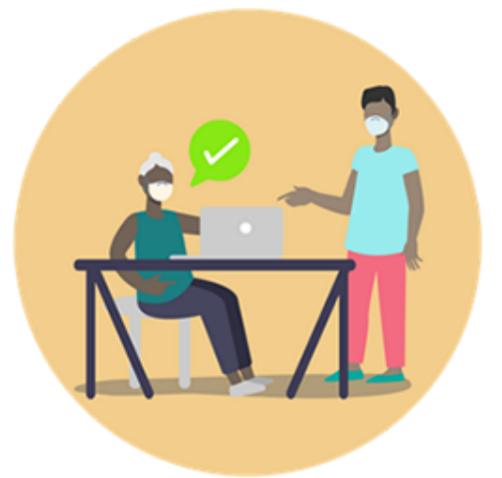## COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccines for Older Adults

Updated Nov. 29, 2021

The risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step in helping to prevent getting sick from COVID-19.

Tips on How to Get a COVID–19 Vaccine

- Contact your state or local health department for more information.
- Ask a family member or friend to help with scheduling an appointment.
- Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or community health center if they provide vaccines.

Find a COVID-19 vaccine: Search vaccines.gov, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

What You Should Know about Vaccines

- You can help protect yourself and the people around you by getting vaccinated.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in preventing severe illness from COVID-19.
- Depending on the kind of COVID-19 vaccine you get, you might need a second shot 3 or 4 weeks after your first shot.
- The vaccines cannot make you sick with COVID-19.

You May Have Side Effects from the Vaccine

Some people have side effects after getting vaccinated. Common side effects include:

- Pain, redness, or swelling where you get your shot
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

These are normal signs that your body is building protection against COVID-19. Learn more about what to expect after getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

Booster Shots and Additional Doses

A booster shot is administered when a person has completed their initial vaccine series and protection against the virus has decreased over time. Everyone ages 18 years and older who is fully vaccinated is eligible for a booster. Learn more about getting a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot.

An additional primary dose is administered when a person may not have built the same level of immunity to their initial vaccine series as someone who is not immunocompromised. Currently, **moderately to severely immunocompromised people** ages 18 years and older who completed their Moderna vaccine primary series **should** plan to get an additional primary dose 28 days after receiving their second shot. **For people** ages 12 years and older who completed their Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine primary series, they **should** also plan to get an additional primary dose 28 days after receiving their second shot.

Vaccination Card and Booster Shots

At your first vaccination appointment, you should have received a vaccination card that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the dates you received it, and where you received it. Bring this vaccination card to your booster dose vaccination appointment.

Safe, Easy, Free, and Nearby COVID-19 Vaccination

The federal government is providing the vaccine **free of charge** to all people living in the U.S., regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Free

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Last Updated Nov. 29, 2021