



## COVID-19

# COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Underlying Medical Conditions

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## Most People with Underlying Medical Conditions Can Get COVID-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to most people with underlying medical conditions, including people with:

- [Medical conditions associated with higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness](#) (this list is updated routinely as new data become available)
- [Autoimmune conditions](#)
- A history of [Guillain-Barré syndrome \(GBS\)](#)
- A history of [Bell's palsy](#)

Learn more about what you can do [when you have been fully vaccinated](#).



If you have questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine, you should talk to your healthcare provider for advice. Inform your vaccination provider about all your allergies and health conditions.

## Find a COVID-19 Vaccine

- The federal government is providing the COVID-19 vaccine [free of charge](#) to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.
- Check with your healthcare provider about whether they offer COVID-19 vaccination.
- Check your local pharmacy's website to see if vaccination walk-ins or appointments are available.
- Contact your [state, territorial, local, or tribal health department](#) for more information.

**Find a COVID-19 vaccine or booster:** Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

## COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe for People with Underlying Medical Conditions

Clinical trials show that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in people with underlying medical conditions, including those that place them at [increased risk for severe COVID-19 symptoms](#), compared to people without underlying medical conditions.

Vaccine manufacturers report information from clinical trials, including demographics and underlying medical conditions of people who participated in COVID-19 vaccine trials. You can find additional information on COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials at [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov), a database of privately and publicly funded clinical studies conducted around the world. You can help protect yourself and the people around you by getting a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can.

## Preparing for Your Vaccination

- Depending on the kind of [COVID-19 vaccine](#) you get, you might need a second shot 3 or 4 weeks after your first shot.
- If you are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#), you may need to get an additional primary shot.
- Most people, including those with medical conditions or compromised immune systems, are eligible to get a [COVID-19 vaccine booster shot](#).
- At your first vaccination appointment, you should get a [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record card](#) that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. You should bring this card to any COVID-19 vaccination appointment you have after your first dose.
- You may experience [side effects](#) after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. These are normal signs that your body is building protection against COVID-19.
- Use [v-safe](#) to tell CDC about any side effects after each of your COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

### Difference between Additional Primary Shot and Booster Shot

- **An additional primary shot** is for people who do not build enough or any protection from their primary vaccine series. This appears to be the case for some [moderately or severely immunocompromised people](#) who received **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna** COVID-19 vaccines.
- **A booster shot** is for people who built enough protection after completing their primary vaccine series, but then that protection decreased over time. Everyone 16 years and older can get a [COVID-19 booster shot](#). Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred in most situations. Although mRNA vaccines are preferred, J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be considered [in some situations](#).

## Related Pages

### Specific Vaccines

- › [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- › [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- › [Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#)

### Specific Groups

- › [Information for Specific Groups](#)
- › [Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- › [People with Disabilities](#)
- › [Pregnancy or Breastfeeding](#)