



## COVID-19

# Possible Side Effects After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

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COVID-19 vaccination will help protect people from getting COVID-19. Adults and children may have some side effects from the vaccine, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. These side effects may affect their ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects, and allergic reactions are rare.

Serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem are extremely unlikely following any vaccination, including COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccine monitoring has historically shown that side effects generally happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine dose. For this reason, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) collected data on each of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines for a minimum of two months (eight weeks) after the final dose. CDC is continuing to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines even now that the vaccines are in use.

The benefits of COVID-19 vaccination outweigh the known and potential risks. Rare cases of [myocarditis](#) (inflammation of the heart muscle) and [pericarditis](#) (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart) in adolescents and young adults have been reported more often after getting the second dose than after the first dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

Get a COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 years and older as soon as you can.

## Common Side Effects

### On the arm where you got the shot:



- Pain
- Redness
- Swelling

### Throughout the rest of your body:



- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Fever
- Nausea

Anyone who has had a [severe allergic reaction](#) after getting a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), should not get another dose of either of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction after receiving Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine, should not receive another dose of that vaccine.

Learn about [getting a different type of COVID-19 vaccine after an allergic reaction](#).

## Helpful Tips to Relieve Side Effects

Talk to a doctor about taking over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, aspirin (only for people age 18 or older), or antihistamines for allergic reactions. Do not take aspirin if you are on blood thinners or have a bleeding disorder.

oider), or antihistamines for any pain and discomfort experienced after getting vaccinated.

People can take these medications to relieve side effects after vaccination if they have no other medical reasons that prevent them from taking these medications normally. Ask your child's healthcare provider for advice on using a non-aspirin pain reliever and other steps you can take at home to comfort your child after vaccination.

It is **not recommended** to take these medicines before vaccination for the purpose of trying to prevent side effects.

### To reduce pain and discomfort where the shot is given



- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area.
- Use or exercise your arm.

### To reduce discomfort from fever



- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Dress lightly.

## After a Second Shot

Side effects after **the second shot** may be more intense than the ones experienced after the first shot. These side effects are normal signs that the body is building protection and should go away within a few days.

## If You Received a Booster Shot

So far, reactions reported after getting a **booster shot** were similar to those after the two-dose or single-dose primary series. Fever, headache, fatigue and pain at the injection site were the most commonly reported side effects, and overall, most side effects were mild to moderate. However, as with the two-dose or single-dose primary series, **serious side effects are rare**, but may occur.

## When to Call the Doctor

Side effects can affect you or your child's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

In most cases, discomfort from pain or fever is a normal sign that the body is building protection. Contact a doctor or healthcare provider:

- If the redness or tenderness where the shot was given gets worse after 24 hours
- If the side effects are worrying or do not seem to be going away after a few days



If you or your child get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you or they might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and rare severe allergic reactions](#).

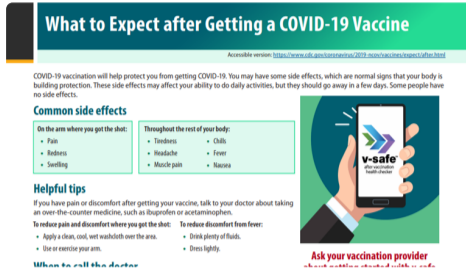
## Remember

CDC continues to closely **monitor the safety** of COVID-19 vaccines. If scientists find a connection between a safety issue and a vaccine, FDA and the vaccine manufacturer will work toward an appropriate solution to address the specific safety concern (for example, a problem with a specific lot, a manufacturing issue or the vaccine itself).

If you would like to report an adverse event, side effect or reaction from the COVID-19 vaccine, please use the following link: <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>

# Enroll in v-safe

After vaccination, enroll yourself or your child in **v-safe**, a free, easy-to-use, and confidential smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after COVID-19 vaccination. Through v-safe, you can report how you or your child is feeling after getting vaccinated. **V-safe** also reminds you to get your second dose. Learn more about **v-safe**.



## What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Fact sheet for healthcare workers to give after vaccination.

File Details: 199 KB, 1 page

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## More Information

[Ensuring COVID-19 vaccine safety in the United States](#)

[Benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine](#)

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

[How to protect yourself and others](#)

[Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)