



# Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Updated July 12, 2022

## Find a Vaccine

- To find a COVID-19 vaccine or booster near you: Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233.
- The federal government is providing COVID-19 vaccines [free of charge](#) to everyone ages 6 months and older living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

## At the Vaccination Site

Before you arrive, contact the site where you will be vaccinated or review your appointment confirmation email for details about your vaccination appointment.

- Learn more about [protecting yourself when going to get your COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- You should receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you or your child received. Each approved and authorized COVID-19 vaccine has its own fact sheet that contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of receiving that specific vaccine. Learn more about [different COVID-19 vaccines](#).
- After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, you or your child should be monitored on site for at least 15 minutes.



[▶ Watch Video: What to Expect at Your COVID-19 Vaccination Appointment \[00:00:48\]](#)

## Considerations for Taking Medication before Getting Vaccinated

If you have questions about medications that you are taking, talk to your healthcare professional or your vaccination provider.

If you were treated for COVID-19 with [monoclonal antibodies](#) or [convalescent plasma](#) while sick with COVID-19, you do not need to wait before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you do not regularly take these medications, before you get a COVID-19 vaccination it is not recommended you take:

- Over-the-counter medicine (such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen) for the purpose of trying to prevent vaccine-related side effects.
- Antihistamines to try to prevent allergic reactions.

It is not known how these medications might affect how well the vaccine works. Learn more about [post-vaccination side effects](#).

If you regularly take medications, you should keep taking them before you get vaccinated. Most people who take medication can get a COVID-19 vaccine. Taking one of the following medications is not, on its own, a reason to avoid getting your COVID-19 vaccination:

- Over-the-counter medications (non-prescription)
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (naproxen, ibuprofen, aspirin, etc.)
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol, etc.)
- Biologics or biologic response modifiers that treat autoimmune diseases
- Chemotherapy or other cancer treatment medications
- Antiviral medication
- Antibiotics
- Statins
- Blood pressure medications/antihypertensives (amlodipine, lisinopril, etc.)
- Diuretics
- Thyroid medications
- Antidepressants
- Metformin
- Diabetic medications
- Insulin
- Steroids (prednisone, etc.)

This is not a complete list. It is meant to provide some examples of common medications. Taking any of these medications will not make COVID-19 vaccination harmful or dangerous.

If you are taking medications that suppress the immune system, you should talk to your healthcare provider about what is currently known and not known about the effectiveness of getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Ask about the best timing for receiving a vaccine. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised](#).

## Get a COVID-19 Vaccine with Your Routine Medical Procedures and Screenings

### Mammograms

If you are due for a mammogram, ask your doctor about when you should get a vaccine. **Some experts recommend getting your mammogram before being vaccinated or waiting four to six weeks after getting your shot.** People who have received a COVID-19 vaccine can have swelling in the lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy) in the underarm near where they got the shot. This is more common after booster or additional doses than after the primary vaccination series. It is possible that this swelling could cause a false reading on a mammogram.

## People Who *Can Wait* to Get Vaccinated

If you recently had COVID-19, you *may* consider delaying your next COVID-19 vaccine (either primary dose or booster) by 3 months from when your symptoms started or when you received a positive test. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

### Get Vaccinated Even If You Had COVID-19 and Think You are Immune

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after having COVID-19 provides added protection to your immune system. People who already had COVID-19 and do not get vaccinated after their recovery are more likely to get COVID-19 again than those who get vaccinated after their recovery.

There is no currently available test that can reliably determine if you are protected after being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. However, you *may* consider delaying your next vaccine dose (primary dose or booster) by 3 months from when your symptoms started or, if you had no symptoms, when you first received a positive test.

## People Who *Should Wait* to Get Vaccinated

Talk to your doctor if you have questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

People who are in quarantine	People who are in isolation	People who have had multisystem inflammatory syndrome
<p>If you are <b>not</b> vaccinated and were exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should <b>wait until your quarantine is over</b> to avoid getting others sick while you get your vaccine. However, you may be able to get a vaccine while in quarantine if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are at risk for multiple exposures (like living in shared housing),</li><li>• Don't have any symptoms of COVID-19, and</li><li>• <a href="#">Take precautions to prevent spreading COVID-19.</a></li></ul>	<p>If you currently have COVID-19, you should <b>wait to get your vaccine</b> until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your symptoms are gone (if you had symptoms) and</li><li>• <a href="#">Criteria</a> to discontinue isolation have been met.</li></ul>	<p>If you or your child have a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults or children (<a href="#">MIS-A</a> or <a href="#">MIS-C</a>), <b>consider delaying vaccination</b> until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You have recovered from being sick and</li><li>• It has been 90 days since the date of diagnosis of MIS-A or MIS-C.</li></ul> <p>Learn more about the <a href="#">clinical considerations</a> for people with a history of MIS-A or MIS-C.</p>

## After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

- At the first vaccination appointment, you will get a [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination card](#). Learn more about the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination card](#).
- People may experience [side effects](#) after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Get helpful tips on [how to reduce any pain or discomfort](#)
- Adverse effects are rare. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines adverse effects](#) and [severe allergic reactions](#).
- Sign up for [V-safe](#).
  - **V-safe** provides quick and confidential health check-ins via text messages and web surveys so you can quickly and easily share with CDC how you or your dependent feel after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

 [Watch Video: Use v-safe to tell CDC how you're feeling after COVID-19 vaccination \[00:00:34\]](#)

## Getting Additional Shots

Everyone ages 6 months and older should [stay up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccines, which includes getting boosters if eligible. A booster shot enhances or restores protection against COVID-19, which may have decreased over time.

Use [CDC's COVID-19 Booster Tool](#) to learn if and when you can get boosters to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.

