



## COVID-19

# Getting Your COVID-19 Vaccine

Updated Sept. 22, 2022

## Everyone 6 Months and Older Should Get a COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccination has many benefits and is an important tool to help protect you from severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

### Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after having COVID-19

Even if you or your child have had COVID-19, you should still get yourself or your child vaccinated.

- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine after having COVID-19 provides added protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- 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.
- If you were given monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma while sick with COVID-19 you **do not** need to wait to get vaccinated.

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#### When you can wait ^

If you recently had COVID-19, you **may** consider delaying your next vaccine dose (primary dose or booster) by **3 months** from when:

- your symptoms started,
- you first received a positive test if you had no symptoms.

Getting COVID-19 again soon after just having had COVID-19 can happen but is not common in the weeks to months after you had it.

Reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later include:

- your own personal risk of having severe health concerns,
- your local [COVID-19 community level](#), and
- the most common COVID-19 variant currently causing illness

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#### When you should wait ^

## If you have COVID-19

People who have COVID-19 and are in isolation, should **wait to get vaccinated until**:

- Symptoms are gone (if you had symptoms) and
- Your [isolation guidelines](#) have been met.

## If you have multisystem inflammatory syndrome

Children and adults who have (or have recently had) [multisystem inflammatory syndrome \(MIS\)](#), should **wait to get vaccinated until**:

- Recovering from being sick and
- It has been 90 days since the date of diagnosis of MIS-A or MIS-C.

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



### Find COVID-19 Vaccines or Boosters

To find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you: Search [vaccines.gov](#), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233.

Find a Vaccine or Booster

## Before the Vaccination

If you do not regularly take over-the-counter medications, you should **not** take them before you get a COVID-19 vaccination.

It is not known how over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen, might affect how well the vaccine works. You may be able to take these types of medications to reduce fever or pain **after** you get your vaccine to relieve any pain or discomfort resulting from [possible side effects](#).

If you regularly take over-the-counter medications, you should keep taking them before you get vaccinated. ^

Taking one of the following medications regularly 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. These are some examples of common medications.

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

If you are taking medications that suppress the immune system, you should talk to your healthcare provider about what is currently known about COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness. Ask about the best timing for you to get your vaccine.

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## Get a COVID-19 vaccine with your routine medical procedures and screenings

You can combine most procedures, screenings, and vaccinations at the same appointment when you get your COVID-19 vaccination. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have questions.

Children, teens, and adults may get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines, including a flu vaccine, at the same time.

## Preparing children and teens for vaccination

If you are getting your child or teen vaccinated learn how you can support them and talk to them about [what to expect](#). The experience of getting a COVID-19 vaccine will be very similar to that of getting routine vaccines.

## Requesting accommodations at COVID-19 vaccination sites

- When making an appointment or arriving for vaccination, you can let staff and/or volunteers know you or your child might need some accommodations.
- People with disabilities can use the [COVID-19 Vaccine Disability Information and Access Line \(DIAL\)](#) [☞](#) to get help with COVID-19 vaccinations.

## If you have allergies related to vaccines

Talk to your doctor if you:

- have had a **severe allergic reaction** to a previous dose to learn if you should get a [different type of COVID-19 vaccine](#),
  - are **allergic to polyethylene glycol (PEG)** and you should **not** get Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine,
  - are **allergic to polysorbate** and you should **not** get Novavax or J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine
  - if you are allergic to other types of vaccines or injectable medications for other diseases.
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- If you had an immediate allergic reaction (a reaction that started within 4 hours of getting vaccinated) to a COVID-19 vaccine, but the reaction was not considered severe by a medical professional, you can **receive another dose of**


**the same vaccine under certain conditions.** Your doctor may refer you to an allergy and immunology specialist for more care or advice.

- If you have had an immediate allergic reaction—even if it was not severe—to a vaccine or injectable therapy for another disease, you should discuss this with your doctor to determine which COVID-19 vaccine is best for you.

## If you have allergies not related to vaccines

You should get vaccinated if you have allergies that are not related to vaccines or injectable medications such as food, pet, venom, environmental, or latex allergies. People with a history of allergies to medications taken by mouth or a family history of severe allergic reactions can also get vaccinated.

## At the Vaccination Site

- **You should receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet** that tells you more about the 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 that vaccine.
- **There is no charge for your COVID-19 vaccine. Your COVID-19 vaccine is free.** COVID-19 vaccines are paid for with taxpayer dollars and are given free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. If anyone asks you to pay for a COVID-19 vaccine, [it's a scam](#) .

## After Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

- Stay on site to be monitored for at least 15 minutes.
- Make sure your vaccination provider updates your vaccination card (or gives you one if this is your first dose).
- [Stay up to date](#) with the recommended COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.
- You may experience [side effects](#) after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- [Adverse effects](#) (serious safety problems) and severe allergic reactions are rare.
- To report any side effects, you can sign up for [v-safe](#). V-safe is a smartphone-based tool that 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 \[00:00:34\]](#)

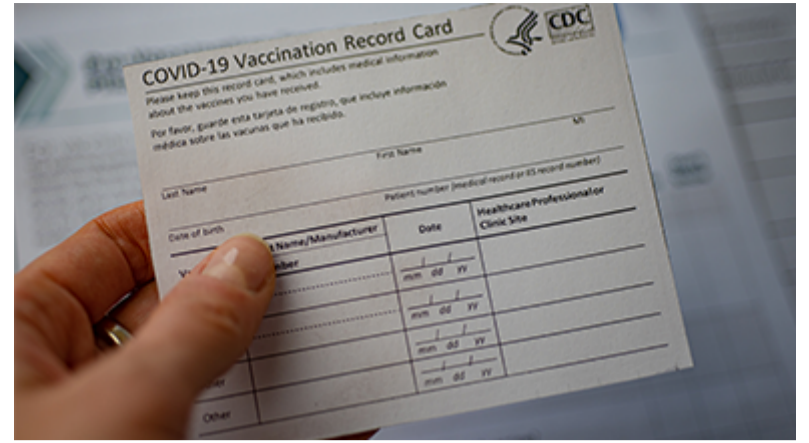
## Your CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Card

Keep your CDC COVID-19 vaccination card for proof of vaccination. Consider taking a picture of your card after each of your COVID-19 vaccination appointments as a backup copy.

- Bring your card to your appointment whenever you get a primary series dose or booster so that your provider can fill in information about your shot.
- If your vaccine card is full, your vaccine provider can give you another card.
- If you did not receive a CDC COVID-19 vaccination card at your first appointment, contact the vaccination provider site where you got your first shot to find out how you can get a vaccination card. You can also contact your [state health department](#) to get a copy of your vaccination record.
- Some vaccination providers and health departments may offer you access to a QR code or digital copy of your COVID-19 vaccination card in addition to giving you a physical CDC COVID-19 vaccination card. Contact your vaccination provider or

local health department to learn if a digital copy of your card is available to you.

- If you were vaccinated abroad there are ways you can [update your U.S. vaccination record](#).
- To report suspicious activity involving fake CDC COVID-19 vaccination cards, please visit [Fraud Alert: COVID-19 Scams](#) or call 1-800-HHS-TIPS.



## What if you lose your card? ^

- Contact your vaccination provider directly to request a vaccination card or to get a copy of your vaccination record.
- If you cannot contact your vaccination provider site directly, contact your state health department's [immunization information system \(IIS\)](#). Vaccination providers must report COVID-19 vaccinations to their IIS and related systems. Your state's IIS **cannot** issue you a vaccination card, but they **can** provide a digital or paper copy of [your vaccination record](#).
- If you need another COVID-19 vaccine dose and are unable to get a copy of your vaccination card or vaccination record, talk to a vaccination provider.

If you have additional questions about vaccination records, please [contact your state health department](#). Your local or state health department can also provide more information about the laws or regulations in your area.

CDC does **not** provide the white CDC COVID-19 vaccination card to people and does **not** maintain vaccination records. Only a vaccination provider can give you this card.

## What is the difference between a vaccine record and a COVID-19 vaccination card? ^

- A **vaccine record** (sometimes called immunization record) provides a history of all the vaccines you received. This record may be required for certain jobs, travel abroad, or a school registration.
- A **COVID-19 vaccination card** is only for COVID-19 vaccination and is given to you when you get your COVID-19 vaccine.



### For Healthcare Workers

Healthcare professionals registered in Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) can [access vaccination certificates in VAMS](#).



### Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines and Boosters

- When do you need to schedule your next shot?
- Do you or your child need to get a booster?
- Can you get a different vaccine product after your 1st dose?

Stay Up to Date

Last Updated Sept. 22, 2022