



COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease)

CASES ARE RISING.
ACT NOW!



8 Things to Know about Vaccine Planning

Updated Dec. 12, 2020

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NOTICE: FDA Grants Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

- On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an [Emergency Use Authorization](#)  for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged 16 years and older for the prevention of COVID-19
- On December 12, 2020, the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) is scheduled to meet to discuss a recommendation for the use of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19

Please check this website for updates as new information is available.

In the United States, there is not yet an authorized or approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The federal government, through [Operation Warp Speed](#) , has been working since the pandemic started to make one or more COVID-19 vaccines available as soon as possible. Although CDC does not have a role in developing COVID-19 vaccines, CDC has been working closely with health departments and partners to develop vaccination plans for when a vaccine is available.

With the possibility of one or more COVID-19 vaccines becoming available before the end of the year, here are 8 things you need to know about where those plans currently stand.

More Information for Healthcare Professionals

[Healthcare Professionals](#)



1

The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. Learn how federal partners are working together to [ensure the safety of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

2

Many vaccines are being developed and tested, but some might be ready before others—CDC is planning for many possibilities.

CDC is working with partners at all levels, including healthcare associations, on flexible COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines and scenarios. CDC has been in contact with your state public health department to help with your state's planning. State, tribal, local, and territorial health departments are critical to making sure vaccines are available to communities.

3

At least at first, COVID-19 vaccines might be used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Learn more about [Emergency Use Authorization](#) and watch a [video on what an EUA is](#).

4

There will be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020, but supply will continually increase in the weeks and months that follow.

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities are available. The plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers available, including doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.

Learn about how the [federal government began investing in select vaccine manufacturers](#) to help them increase their ability to quickly make and distribute a large amount of COVID-19 vaccine.

5

Because of limited supply, some groups will be recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine first.

Healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents should be offered COVID-19 vaccination in the initial phase of the U.S. COVID-19 vaccination program while there is limited vaccine supply. CDC officially made this recommendation on December 2, 2020, based on [recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#).

Expecting that a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine was likely at first, experts began working during the summer on a strategy for distributing these limited vaccines in a fair, ethical, and transparent way. The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine gave input](#) [↗](#) to ACIP, who then [set goals and ethical principles](#) to guide their decision making.

Making COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations

CDC makes vaccination recommendations, including those for COVID-19 vaccines, based on input from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. [Learn more](#)

6

At first, COVID-19 vaccines may not be recommended for children.

In early [clinical trials](#) for various COVID-19 vaccines, only non-pregnant adults participated. However, clinical trials continue to expand those recruited to participate. The groups recommended to receive the vaccines could change in the future.

7

Cost will not be an obstacle to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccine providers will be able to charge administration fees for giving or administering the shot to someone. Vaccine providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund.

8

COVID-19 vaccine planning is being updated as new information becomes available.

CDC will continue to update this website as plans develop.

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Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)