



COVID-19

CASES ARE RISING.
ACT NOW!



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19

Updated Dec. 31, 2020

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It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.



Because COVID-19 is a new disease with new vaccines, you may have questions about what happens before, during, and after your appointment to get vaccinated. These tips will help you know what to expect when you get vaccinated, what information your provider will give you, and resources you can use to monitor your health after you are vaccinated.

Before Vaccination

- See if COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for you right now.
- Learn more about the [different types of COVID-19 vaccines and how they work](#).
- Learn more about the [benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccination](#).
- When you get the vaccine, you *and* your healthcare worker will both need to wear masks that cover your nose and mouth. Stay 6 feet away from others while inside and in lines. [Learn more about protecting yourself during visits to the doctor or a pharmacy](#).

When You Get Vaccinated



You should receive a vaccination card or printout that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it.

- You should receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you are being offered. Each 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.
- All people who get a COVID-19 vaccine should be monitored on-site. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and rare severe allergic reactions](#).

After Vaccination

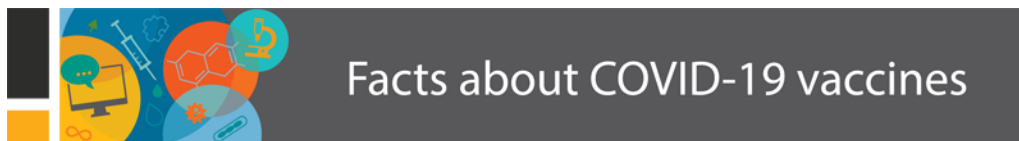
What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Learn about common side effects and get helpful tips on how to reduce your pain and discomfort

With most COVID-19 vaccines, you will need two shots in order for them to work. Get the second shot even if you have side effects after the first one, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get a second shot.

- Ask your healthcare provider about getting started with **v-safe**, a free, smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination. V-safe also reminds you to get your second dose if you need one. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/vsafe.
- It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until a week or two after your second shot.

Plain Language Fact Sheet



Vaccines (shots) are one of the tools we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.



To stop this pandemic, we need to use all of our prevention tools. Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect your health and prevent disease. Vaccines work with your body's natural defenses so **your body will be ready to fight the virus**, if you are exposed (also called immunity). Other steps, like wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth and staying at least 6 feet away from other people you don't live with, also help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Studies show that COVID-19 **vaccines are very effective** at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. These vaccines cannot give you the disease itself.

[Facts about COVID-19 vaccines](#)  [495 KB, 2 pages]

[Español](#)  [562 KB, 2 pages]

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