

Get informed on COVID-19 vaccines

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Recently, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued emergency use authorization (EUA) for coronavirus vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also officially recommended the vaccines.

Will there be any out-of-pocket costs for the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. The vaccine will have a \$0 cost share during the emergency health period.

How many COVID-19 vaccines are authorized?

There are several vaccines that are FDA-authorized: Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen.

There are a few vaccines in Phase 3 clinical trials. One or more may be available yet this year.

How do I find out when I can get a vaccine?

While CDC makes recommendations for who should be offered COVID-19 vaccine first, each state has its own plan for deciding who will be vaccinated first and how they can receive vaccines. Please contact your [local health department](#) for more information on COVID-19 vaccination in your area.

The first groups of people recommended by the CDC to be vaccinated are:

Phase 1a:

- Health care workers
- Residents of long-term care (LTC) facilities

Phase 1b:

- Frontline essential workers
- People 75 years and older

Phase 1c:

- People ages 65-74
- People ages 16-64 with high risk medical conditions
- Essential workers (not previously recommended for vaccination)

Can I choose which COVID-19 vaccine to get? Many people may not have a choice. It may be that your doctor's office or pharmacy or mass vaccination site will only have one type of vaccine. You should get vaccinated when it's your turn, and with whichever vaccine is available.

Will children also be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Each vaccine will have different age guidelines. Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorized for teens ages 16-17 years.¹ Studies are ongoing for children. Once results are available, the CDC will determine if the vaccines are safe for children. Check with your health care provider for the most current guidance.

Where can I get a vaccine once I confirm I am eligible? Check with your [state health department](#) to find out where to get it near you. Go to vaccinefinder.org and enter your zipcode.

The website will list

- vaccine providers
- what vaccines are in stock
- how to schedule an appointment

Do I have to go to an in-network pharmacy to get a vaccine?

No. Once widely available to the public, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at most pharmacies. You will not need a prescription to get a vaccine.

How many doses of the vaccine do I need?

It depends on the vaccine you get. You need 2 doses of the Pfizer¹ and Moderna² vaccines. You need 1 dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Do I have to get 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine^{1,2}? Yes. It is not uncommon for some vaccines to require 2 doses like the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The second dose helps to build the best immune response.

Are there side effects?

The CDC website, cdc.gov, is the best resource for COVID-19 information. Side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine could include pain at the injection site, fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, and/or joint pain.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe^{1,2}?

For FDA emergency use authorization, the known benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known risks. The COVID-19 vaccines have been studied in large clinical trials with over 40,000 individuals. After the vaccination some people experience a short period of flu-like symptoms (fatigue, headache, fever). Both the FDA and a group of experts in vaccine safety have reviewed the data from clinical trials. The CDC will closely monitor the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Who should I contact if I have a problem or side effects after I get the vaccine?

If you have a severe reaction after the COVID-19 vaccine, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital. Call your vaccination provider or healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects that bother you or will not go away.

Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have had severe allergic reactions to other vaccines?

Talk with your vaccination provider or healthcare provider about past reactions to vaccines.

What is v-safe?⁴

V-safe is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination. Through v-safe, you can quickly tell the CDC if you have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. And v-safe will remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one.

How do I enroll in v-safe?⁴

When you get a COVID-19 vaccine, your healthcare provider will give you a v-safe information sheet. This sheet provides instructions on how to register and use v-safe. You must sign up within 42 days of getting your first COVID-19 vaccine dose.

How long will the COVID-19 vaccine protect me? At this time, it is not known how long the vaccine can protect you. Data is limited and research is ongoing.

Should I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have already been infected?

The CDC recommends getting a COVID-19 vaccine even if you have been infected.

Health officials will keep the public informed with more details.

If I get the vaccine, do I still need to wear a mask? Yes. Experts are still learning about the protection the COVID-19 vaccine provides. So, you should keep following safety guidelines like washing your hands often, keeping a physical distance between you and others and wearing a mask.

Should I get a flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine? Yes. The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are for different illnesses. A seasonal flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19. Getting both vaccines will help protect you the most.



Where can I go for more information?

Visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) to learn more about side effects and tips for after you get the vaccine. More resources:

- [FDA's Moderna COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet](https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/moderna-covid-19-patient-fact-sheet)
- [FDA's Janssen COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet](https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/janssen-covid-19-patient-fact-sheet)
- [FDA's Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet](https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-patient-fact-sheet)
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz/iq/covid-19/)
- [CDC COVID-19 Things You Need to Know](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/things-you-need-to-know/)

1 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html>

2 Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html>

3 Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

4 V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>



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