

# FAQ



Here you will find answers to frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. Stay informed and get the latest updates from trusted sources, like your healthcare team.

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## 1. When and where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available in our communities. Talk to your trusted healthcare team to schedule your vaccine appointment today! When you get vaccinated, you'll get the CDC vaccination card with important information about the date, location and the brand of the vaccine you received. Keep this card in a safe place.

If you received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, the CDC card should also tell you when you need to get the second shot. The second shot is needed in order for the vaccine to work. Remember, 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.

## 2. Do I have to pay for a COVID-19 vaccine?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine will be given to Americans at no cost.

## 3. How many shots of COVID-19 vaccine will I need?

Currently, you'll need two shots of the mRNA Pfizer or Moderna vaccine to get the most protection. A third shot is recommended 28 days after the second shot of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems.

If you receive the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, you'll need one shot to get the most protection.

## 4. Do I need to wear a mask when I received my COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. It is recommended people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth during the pandemic.



### 5. Do I need to wear a mask in public after I am fully vaccinated?

Yes, even if you're fully vaccinated, it's recommended you wear a mask indoors and stay 6 feet away from others in public during this dangerous surge of COVID-19 infections.

### 6. What are the side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine?

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. Side effects should go away in a few days. Talk to your doctor about ways to reduce pain and discomfort from side effects.

#### Common side effects of the vaccine:

- **On the arm where you got the shot:** Pain, Swelling
- **Throughout the rest of your body:** Fever, Chills, Tiredness, Headache

### 7. Is it normal to feel side effects, like arm soreness and fever, after getting a vaccine?

Yes. These side effects are known as the reactogenicity of a vaccine. It's usually a sign your immune system is building protection—it is "reacting" to the vaccine the way it is supposed to. Health experts say you may feel more side effects with a COVID-19 vaccine compared to other vaccines. This is not dangerous, just unpleasant.

### 8. Can I get the flu shot and a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time?

Yes. It's safe to get both the flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time.

### 9. Should I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have allergies?

There is a small chance the vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction would usually occur within a few minutes to one hour after getting the shot. You will be monitored for any signs of allergic reactions afterwards. Talk to your doctor about any concerns or questions.

### 10. What happens if I choose not to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

If you don't get a vaccine, you are not immune. You run the risk of getting the virus and becoming ill.



**11. What should I do if I have symptoms of COVID-19, like a runny nose or a sore throat? Could it be a cold or allergies?**

Stay home and call your doctor right away for advice. COVID-19 symptoms are similar to symptoms for flu, colds and allergies. Testing may be needed to know what the illness is and to get the right treatment.

**12. Are there treatments available for COVID-19 disease?**

Yes. There are prescription medications available to treat mild, moderate, and severe COVID-19 illness. Some medications are used in the hospital to treat severe illness and others are used in an outpatient setting to treat mild to moderate illness. These medications should be prescribed by your doctor and do not replace the need for vaccines.

**13. What are monoclonal antibodies?**

Monoclonal antibodies are prescription medications that can be given in a doctor's office or an outpatient medical office. They are used to attack the virus that causes COVID-19 and have been found to reduce symptoms and prevent COVID-19 illness from getting worse.

**14. If I've already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Yes, it is strongly recommended you get a COVID-19 vaccine. Currently, there is not enough information available to say if or for how long after infection a person is protected from getting COVID-19 again.

Source: CDC, FDA