

## Important: COVID-19 Vaccine Information

We want to ensure that you stay informed about the developments surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine. Below you will find the latest information (as of 1/8/2021) provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including answers to some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs). If you have additional questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to us at **800.648.7563**.



### 8 Things to Know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Now that there is an authorized and recommended vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in the United States, here are 8 things you need to know about the new COVID-19 Vaccination Program and COVID-19 vaccines.

#### 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](#).

CDC has developed a new tool, [V-safe](#), as an additional layer of safety monitoring to increase our ability to rapidly detect any safety issues with COVID-19 vaccines. V-safe is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines.

#### 2. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. Two doses are needed.

Depending on the specific vaccine you get, a second shot 3-4 weeks after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease. Learn more about the benefits of getting vaccinated.

#### 3. CDC is making recommendations for who should be offered COVID-19 vaccine first when supplies are limited.

To help guide decisions about how to distribute limited initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have [published recommendations](#) for which groups should be vaccinated first.

Learn more about [who should be vaccinated first when vaccine supplies are limited](#).

#### 4. There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, but supply will increase in the weeks and months to come.

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available. Once vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.

#### 5. After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection.

The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Learn more about what [side effects to expect and get helpful tips](#) on how to reduce pain and discomfort after your vaccination.

#### 6. Cost is not 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, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot. Vaccination 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](#).

#### 7. The first COVID-19 vaccine is being used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Many other vaccines are still being developed and tested.

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

If more COVID-19 vaccines are authorized or approved by FDA, the [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#) will quickly hold public meetings to review all available data about each vaccine and make recommendations for their use in the United States. [Learn more about how CDC is making COVID-19 vaccine recommendations](#).

All ACIP-recommended vaccines will be included in the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program. CDC continues to work at all levels with partners, including healthcare associations, on a flexible COVID-19 vaccination program that can accommodate different vaccines and adapt to different scenarios. State, tribal, local, and territorial health departments have [developed distribution plans](#) to make sure all recommended vaccines are available to their communities.

#### 8. COVID-19 vaccines are one of many important tools to help us stop this pandemic.

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.

**CDC will continue to update this website as vaccine recommendations and supply change.**



### Additional COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

#### How much will the COVID-19 vaccine cost?

There will be no cost to members for the COVID-19 vaccine.

#### Do I need 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Both of the currently available COVID-19 vaccines require 2 doses. The first dose starts building protection and the second dose is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer.

#### Are there special considerations on who should get the COVID-19 vaccine first?

While CDC makes recommendations for who should be offered COVID-19 vaccine first, each state has its own plan for vaccine prioritization, distribution, and allocation. Contact your state or local health department for more information on their planning for COVID-19 vaccines.

#### Do I need a COVID-19 vaccine if I have already had COVID-19 and recovered?

The COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to you regardless of whether you've already had COVID-19. However, anyone currently infected with COVID-19 should wait to get the vaccine until after their illness has resolved and they meet the criteria to discontinue isolation. Speak with your primary care physician to determine if the vaccine is appropriate for you.

#### Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have had an allergic reaction to other types of vaccines?

Neither the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines contain eggs, latex, or preservatives, but it is recommended you discuss with your doctor if it is safe for you to get vaccinated.

#### What can I do now to help protect myself from getting COVID-19?

Continue to wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from others who don't live with you, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often. Even if you have received 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine you should continue with these precautions. COVID-19 vaccination and following the CDC's recommendations will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

#### As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups

The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. As vaccine supply increases but remains limited, ACIP will expand the groups recommended for vaccination.

#### For more FAQs relating to the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>  
[https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-\(covid-19\)-vaccines](https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-(covid-19)-vaccines)

#### Learn more about U.S. COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials, including vaccines in earlier stages of development, by visiting [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov).

#### For more information on COVID-19 visit:

[www.cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)  
<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>  
<https://www.who.int/>