Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination

15 Is there a risk of a severe allergic reaction if I receive the vaccine?

A Serious problems from vaccination can happen, but they are rare. CDC has learned of reports that some people have experienced severe allergic reactions—also known as anaphylaxis—after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. As an example, an allergic reaction is considered severe when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or EpiPen© or if they must go to the hospital.

16 What are the side effects associated with the vaccine?

A The reported side effects for each vaccine are summarized in the table below:

Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna
Injection site reaction – 84.1%	Injection site reaction – 91.6%
Fatigue – 62.9%	Fatigue – 68.5%
Headache – 55.1%	Headache – 63%
Muscle Pain – 38.3%	Muscle Pain – 59.6%
Chills – 31.9%	Chills – 43.4%
Joint Pain – 23.6%	Joint Pain – 44.8%
Fever – 14.2%	

17 How do I report it if I have a problem or bad reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

A It is normal to experience side effects after receiving the vaccine. However, if you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911. It is ideal to wait 15 minutes at the medical center where the vaccine is given, so you will be under close observation in case you have an allergic reaction.

You can report side effects and reactions using v-safe.

V-safe is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. **V-safe** uses text messaging and web surveys from CDC to check in with vaccine recipients following COVID-19 vaccination. **V-safe** also provides second vaccine dose reminders if needed, and telephone follow up to anyone who reports medically significant (important) adverse events.

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About Vaccines

1 Which lasts longer, immunity after getting COVID-19 or protection from COVID-19 vaccines?

A The protection someone gains from having an infection (called "natural immunity") varies depending on the disease, and it varies from person to person. Because this virus is new, we don't know how long natural immunity might last. Current evidence suggests that getting the virus again (reinfection) is uncommon in the 90 days after the first infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.

We won't know how long immunity lasts after vaccination until we have more data on how well COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Early research into Moderna has suggested that immunity with their vaccine will last for up to one year.

2 What are the ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines?

A The two COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States do not contain eggs, preservatives, or latex.

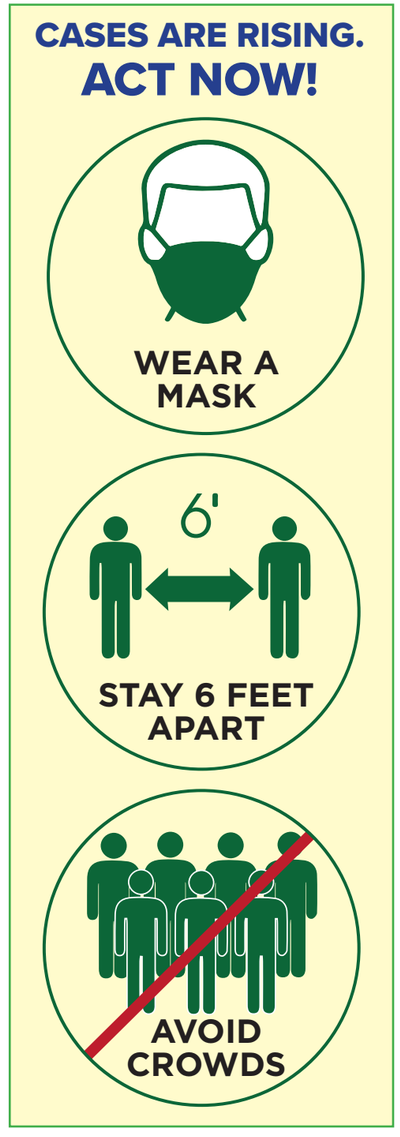
3 Who is paying for the COVID-19 vaccines?

A Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers can charge an administration fee for giving someone the shot. Vaccination providers can be reimbursed for this by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund. No one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay the vaccine administration fee.

Getting Vaccinated

4 Why is it necessary to find a vaccine if we can take other measures, like social distancing or wearing masks, to prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19?

A In order to stop a pandemic, it is necessary to utilize all of the tools that are available to us. Vaccines are important because they activate an immune response so that our bodies are prepared to fight off the virus if we are ever exposed to it. Wearing a mask that covers both your mouth and nose and maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet from others, are important ways to help reduce this risk of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. The ultimate protection against COVID-19 will be to receive the vaccine (when available) in addition to continuing to follow the CDC's recommendations for protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.



NIHHC – Northern Indiana Hispanic Health Coalition
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NIHHC's COVID-19 hotline: **574.206.3938**

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5 When will it be my turn to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

A Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is currently limited, CDC is providing recommendations to federal, state, and local governments about who should be vaccinated first.

Each state has its own plan for deciding which groups of people will be vaccinated first. For Indiana, it is based on age. The first group was for those over 80 years old and the second group is for those over the age of 70. To make your appointment to receive the vaccine (if you are eligible), visit ourshot.in.gov or call 211 to register if you do not have access to a computer. For those in Elkhart County, call the Health Department's COVID-19 Call Center at 574-523-2106 to make your appointment.

The goal is for everyone to be able to get a COVID-19 vaccination easily as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available. As the vaccine supply increases, more groups will be added to receive vaccination.

6 What can I do now to help protect myself from getting COVID-19 until I am able to get a vaccine?

A To protect yourself, follow these recommendations:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often

7 If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine?

A Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had a COVID-19 infection. If you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

8 Will I be required to get vaccinated for work?

A The federal government does not mandate (require) vaccination for individuals. For some healthcare workers or essential employees, a state or local government or employer, for example, may require or mandate that workers be vaccinated as a matter of state or other law. Check with your employer to see if they have any rules that apply to you.

9 Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have gotten 2 doses of the vaccine?

A Yes. Not enough information is currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide in real-world conditions before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision. We also don't yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself.

Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for how to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

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10 How many shots of COVID-19 vaccine will be needed?

A The currently authorized vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States require 2 shots to get the most protection. For the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, doses should be given 3 weeks (21 days) apart. For the Moderna vaccine, doses should be given 1 month (28 days) apart.

You should **get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 1-month interval as possible**. However, there is no maximum interval between the first and second doses for either vaccine. You should **not** get the second dose earlier than the recommended interval.

11 Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as another vaccine?

A Wait at least 14 days before getting any other vaccine, including a flu or shingles vaccine, if you get your COVID-19 vaccine first. And if you get another vaccine first, wait at least 14 days before getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

If a COVID-19 vaccine is inadvertently given within 14 days of another vaccine, you do **not** need to restart the COVID-19 vaccine series; you should still complete the series on schedule.

Vaccine Safety

12 Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?

A All the COVID-19 vaccines being used have gone through rigorous studies to ensure they are as safe as possible. Systems that allow CDC to watch for safety issues are in place across the entire country.

The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine.

13 Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

A People who are pregnant and part of a group recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may choose to be vaccinated. If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with a healthcare provider may might help you make an informed decision. While breastfeeding is an important consideration, it is rarely a safety concern with vaccines.

No data are available yet on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in lactating women or on the effects of mRNA vaccines on breastfed infants or on milk production/excretion. mRNA vaccines are not thought to be a risk to breastfeeding infants. People who are breastfeeding and are part of a group recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, such as healthcare personnel, may choose to be vaccinated.

14 Is it safe for me to get a vaccine if I have an underlying medical condition?

A People with underlying medical conditions can receive the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines provided they have not had an immediate or severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine or to any of the ingredients in the vaccine. Vaccination is an important consideration for adults of any age with **certain underlying medical conditions** because they are at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.

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