

## Key Things to Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

### EFFECTIVENESS

#### WHAT WE KNOW

- » COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19.
- » You should keep using available tools to [protect yourself and others](#) until you are fully vaccinated.
- » [After you are fully vaccinated](#), you may be able to start doing some things you had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

#### WHAT ARE STILL LEARNING

- » Scientists are still learning how well vaccines prevent you from **spreading the virus**.
- » We're also still learning **how long** COVID-19 vaccines protect people.

### SAFETY

#### WHAT WE KNOW

- » COVID-19 vaccines are [safe and effective](#).
- » These vaccines [cannot give you COVID-19](#) or [change your DNA](#).
- » You may have side effects [after vaccination](#), but these are normal.

## If You've Been Fully Vaccinated

**Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?** People are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If you don't meet these requirements, you are NOT fully vaccinated. Keep taking precautions until you are fully vaccinated.



### YOU CAN

- ✓ Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with other fully vaccinated people of any age
- ✓ Visit inside a home or private setting without a mask with one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness
- ✓ Travel domestically without a pre- or post-travel test and without quarantining after travel
- ✓ Travel internationally without a pre-travel test depending on destination
- ✓ Travel internationally without quarantining after travel

### YOU SHOULDN'T

- ✗ Visit indoors, without a mask, with people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19
- ✗ Attend medium or large gatherings

Download and print: [What You Can Do Once You Have Been Fully Vaccinated](#)

### COST OF VACCINES

#### WHAT WE KNOW

- » The federal government is providing the vaccine **FREE OF CHARGE** to all people living in the U.S., regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.

### POPULATION IMMUNITY

#### WHAT WE KNOW

- » Population immunity means that **enough people in a community are protected** from getting a disease because they've already had the disease or because they've been vaccinated.

#### WHAT ARE STILL LEARNING

- » We are still learning **how many people** have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before most people can be considered protected.

### NEW VARIANTS

#### WHAT ARE STILL LEARNING

- » **We are still learning** how effective the vaccines are against [new variants of the virus](#) that causes COVID-19.

## At Your Vaccination Appointment

- » **Before you arrive, contact the site where you will be vaccinated or review your appointment confirmation email** for details about what identification and proof of eligibility you may need to bring to your vaccination appointment.
- » **When you get a vaccine, you and your healthcare provider will both need to wear masks that cover your nose and mouth.** Stay 6 feet away from others while inside and in lines.
- » **You should receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you receive.** 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.
- » **After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, you should be monitored on site for at least 15 minutes.**
- » **Ask your vaccination 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. Through v-safe, you can quickly tell CDC if you have any [side effects](#) after vaccination. V-safe also reminds you to get your second dose if you need one.

- » **You should get a vaccination card that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received,** the date you received it, and where you received it. Keep your vaccination card in case you need it for future use. Consider taking a picture of your vaccination card as a backup copy.
- » **If you do not receive a COVID-19 vaccination card at your appointment,** contact your vaccination provider to find out how you can get a card.



## Don't Get a Covid-19 Vaccine at the Same Time as Other Vaccines

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

If you get a COVID-19 vaccine within 14 days of another vaccine, you do not need to be revaccinated with either

vaccine. You should still complete both vaccine series on schedule.

When we have more data on the [safety](#) and [effectiveness](#) of COVID-19 vaccines given at the same time as other vaccines, CDC may update this recommendation.



## Considerations for Taking Medication Before Getting Vaccinated

For most people, it is not recommended to avoid, discontinue, or delay medications for underlying medical conditions around the time of COVID-19 vaccination. However, your healthcare provider should talk to you about what is currently known and not known about the effectiveness of getting a COVID-19 vaccine when taking medications that suppress the immune system.

It is not recommended you take over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen, before vaccination for the purpose of trying to prevent

vaccine-related side effects. It is not known how these medications may affect how well the vaccine works. However, if you take these medications regularly for other reasons, you should keep taking them before you get vaccinated. It is also not recommended to take antihistamines before getting a COVID-19 vaccine to try to prevent allergic reactions.

If you have questions about medications that you are taking, talk to your doctor or your vaccination provider.

