

COVID-19 VACCINATION WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Have concerns? That's okay. Now is the time to get the facts.

Getting back to the moments we miss starts with getting informed.

What are the benefits of getting vaccinated for COVID-19?

- Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing you from getting COVID-19. Being vaccinated also helps keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get infected. So far, studies suggest that the vaccines authorized by the FDA are also effective against variants such as the Delta variant.
- Protecting yourself protects those around you, such as people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19. It also protects those who can't get vaccinated, including infants, or people with immune systems weakened by things like chemotherapy for cancer.



How do I get vaccinated against COVID-19?

- Everyone over the age of 12 and over is eligible to get COVID-19 vaccines. Availability and appointment scheduling vary from state to state.
 - Visit [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org) (available in English and Spanish), to find vaccination providers near you.
 - Text your zip code to 438829 (English) and 822862 (Spanish) to find vaccine providers near you, and coordinate a free ride to a provider.
- If you have questions, make sure you talk to your doctor.

What should I expect after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

- It's normal to experience some mild discomfort following a vaccine. This means it's working and creating an immune response in your body.
- You may feel soreness or experience some swelling in your arm. You may also feel tired, have a headache, fever, or chills. These symptoms do not mean you have COVID-19 — it's not possible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- These side effects may impact your daily activities, but they shouldn't last more than 2-3 days. If they continue or get worse, call your doctor, nurse, or clinic.

Should I worry about long-term side effects?

- It is extremely unlikely you will suffer serious side effects that could cause a long-term health problem after getting a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Long-term side effects following any vaccination are extremely rare. In the past vaccine monitoring has shown that if side effects are going to happen, they tend to happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine dose.

If I've already had COVID, do I need the vaccine?

- Yes. Health experts recommend getting vaccinated regardless of whether you have already had COVID-19. At this time, experts are still learning how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. Even if you have already recovered from COVID-19, it is possible—although rare—that you could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 again. If you've had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, talk to your doctor about when you should get vaccinated.

Have more questions? Visit [GetVaccineAnswers.org](https://www.getvaccineanswers.org)



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How do we know COVID-19 Vaccines are safe?

- More than 150 million people in the United States, including 96% of medical doctors, are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19. These vaccines have been through the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- Vaccines are authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It sets strict standards for clinical trials and carefully reviews scientific data from vaccine developers. Once vaccines are made available to the public, the FDA continues to monitor them very closely.
- Researchers began developing vaccines for COVID-19 in January 2020, based on decades of work on immune responses and vaccine technology. Thousands of volunteers took part in the clinical trials that started that spring to ensure the vaccines are safe and effective.

Do vaccines protect against the Delta Variant?

- So far, studies suggest that all vaccines authorized for use in the United States are effective against known variants. There are currently 4 notable variants in the United States:
 - o B.1.1.7 (Alpha)
 - o B.1.351 (Beta)
 - o P.1 (Gamma)
 - o B.1.617.2 (Delta)
- The Delta variant, has been categorized as a variant of concern in the United States and is linked to a growing number of cases in many parts of the country, particularly in areas with low vaccination rates. This variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. An increase in the number of cases will put more strain on healthcare resources, and lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.

Should I still wear a mask once I'm fully vaccinated?

- If you're fully vaccinated, you can start to safely resume many activities. However, with the more contagious Delta variant circulating across the United States, health experts are encouraging all people to wear a mask indoors in public if they are in an area of substantial or high transmission. This will maximize protection against the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others.
- If you or someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is not yet vaccinated, or is at increased risk for severe disease, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status or the level of transmission in your area.
- You should continue to wear a mask where required by laws, rules, regulations, or local guidance. CDC is continuing to update guidelines as more information becomes available, so please visit their website for the latest information.



Do COVID-19 vaccines effect your fertility?

- No. There is currently no evidence that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause fertility problems. If you are trying to become pregnant now or want to get pregnant in the future, you may receive a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available to you.

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