

The FDA has authorized the use of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson with more vaccines expected to receive Emergency Use Authorization in the coming months. Getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you is one of the most important steps you can take to protect yourself and others. By getting the vaccine, you significantly reduce your risk of contracting COVID-19.

COVID-19 Vaccine Benefits

- 1.** COVID-19 vaccination protects you from getting infected with COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine can also keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- 2.** COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection. COVID-19 vaccines train your immune system to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19.
- 3.** COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help stop the pandemic. The combination of getting vaccinated and following the CDC's guidelines to wear a mask, wash your hands, and maintain social distance from others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Frequently Asked Questions

▶ Can getting the COVID-19 vaccine make me sick with COVID-19?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19, so the vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. After getting the vaccine, you may feel some symptoms similar to the cold or flu, but these typically go away within a few days. Common side effects include chills, tiredness, headache; and pain, swelling, or redness in the arm. Many people report no side effects.

▶ After getting a COVID-19 vaccine, will I test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?

No. Neither the recently authorized vaccines nor the other COVID-19 vaccines currently in clinical trials in the United States can cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to determine if you have a current infection.

▶ Can I go back to normal life after getting the vaccine?

COVID-19 guidance will continue to change as public health officials monitor disease and vaccination rates. As of May 2021, fully vaccinated adults can stop wearing masks in most settings according to new CDC guidelines. While this is encouraging news for resuming pre-pandemic lifestyles, vaccinated people must still follow existing state, local, or tribal regulations and policies on mask wearing and social distancing.

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

Yes. Reinfection is possible, and it is important to protect yourself from the severe health risks associated with COVID-19. At this time, experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19.

> When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Each state has its own plan for deciding who will be vaccinated first and how residents will get vaccines. Contact your local health department for more information on COVID-19 vaccines in your area. It is important to get the vaccine when you are eligible and to follow the dosing schedule outlined by the FDA to ensure you are protected.

Johnson & Johnson

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires one dose.

Moderna

The Moderna vaccine requires two doses given four weeks apart.

Pfizer

The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses given three weeks apart.

> How effective are the vaccines?

All three currently approved vaccines are very effective at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19 infection, which means they will keep you from getting very sick, being admitted to the hospital, or dying. If you do get COVID-19 after receiving the vaccine, your illness will be mild and feel more like the common cold or flu. If you are offered any of the approved vaccine, you should get it, regardless of which vaccine it is.

> Will the vaccine prevent me from getting sick from one of the new COVID-19 variants?

Scientists believe the vaccines will be effective against some of the variants we've seen so far. However, it's not entirely clear how effective they will be against all variants, such as the one first seen in South Africa. Despite the lack of data on the new variants, you should still get vaccinated as soon as you are able to do so.

> How do I know which vaccine to get?

While the supply of vaccines remains low, you will not have the ability to choose which vaccine you receive. You will receive the vaccine that is available at the site where you get vaccinated. However, all three vaccines have been tested for safety and are effective at preventing severe disease.