Get informed on COVID-19 vaccines

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Comirnaty, Pfizer-BioNTech[1]'s COVID-19 vaccine. Johnson & Johnson's Janssen[1] and Moderna[2] coronavirus vaccines have FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has officially recommended these vaccines.

Will there be any out-of-pocket costs for the COVID-19 vaccine?
No. The vaccine will have a $0 cost share during the emergency health period.

How to find a COVID-19 Vaccine
Check with your doctor's office or local pharmacy. Parents, check with your child's healthcare provider about whether they offer the vaccination.

Try one of these easy ways to find out where you can get a COVID-19 vaccine:

- **Online: vaccines.gov**
- **Online: vaccinefinder.org**
- **Call** 1-800-232-0233
- **Text** your ZIP code to 438829.
  Standard text message rates may apply.

Do I have to go to an in-network pharmacy to get a vaccine?
No, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at most pharmacies. You will not need a prescription to get a vaccine.

Would a booster COVID shot have to be the same brand of vaccine I got originally?
No. Anyone eligible may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may prefer to use the type that they originally received. Others may prefer to get a different booster. CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match for booster shots.

Are any oral COVID-19 treatments available?
The FDA[3] has granted EUA for two oral drugs for people with COVID-19 and who are at risk for becoming severely ill.

Pfizer's Paxlovid — Available to people 12+ within 5 days of testing positive.

Merck's molnupiravar — Available to people 18+ within 5 days of testing positive.

Contact your doctor to discuss whether the benefits of either treatment outweigh the risks.

Initial supplies of both drugs will be limited until production increases.

Vaccine manufacturer	Primary series	Ages	Booster dose
Pfizer-BioNTech[a]	2 doses Given 3 weeks (21 days) apart	5+ years old	Authorized for booster for people age 12 and older at least 5 months after primary series[c]
Moderna[a]	2 doses Given 4 weeks (28 days) apart[c]	18+ years old	Authorized for booster for people age 16 and older at least 5 months after primary series[c]
Johnson & Johnson's Janssen[b]	1 dose	18+ years old	Everyone ages 18 years and older should get a booster dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) at least 2 months after the first dose of J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. You may get J&J/Janssen in certain cases.

[a] If you had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or if you have a known (diagnosed) allergy to a COVID-19 vaccine ingredient, you should not get that vaccine. If you have been instructed not to get one type of COVID-19 vaccine, you may still be able to get another type.

[b] CDC has updated its recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines with a preference for mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) vaccines. Learn more about the updated guidance on the use of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine.

[c] You should get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible. You should not get the second dose early.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe[1,4]?

For FDA emergency use authorization, the known benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known risks. The COVID-19 vaccines have been studied in large clinical trials with over 40,000 people. After the vaccination some people have a short period of flu-like symptoms (fatigue, headache, fever). Both the FDA and a group of experts in vaccine safety have reviewed the data from clinical trials. The CDC will closely monitor the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Who should I contact if I have a problem or side effects after I get the vaccine?

If you have a severe reaction after the COVID-19 vaccine, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest hospital. Call your vaccination provider or healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects that bother you or will not go away.

Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have had severe allergic reactions to other vaccines?

Talk with your vaccination provider or healthcare provider about past reactions to vaccines.

What is v-safe?[5]

V-safe is a 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 the CDC if you have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. And v-safe will remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one.

How do I enroll in v-safe?[5]

When you get a COVID-19 vaccine, your healthcare provider will give you a v-safe information sheet. This sheet provides instructions on how to register and use v-safe.

Should I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have already been infected?

The CDC recommends getting a COVID-19 vaccine even if you have been infected.

If I am fully vaccinated for COVID-19, do I still need to wear a mask?

CDC guidance recommends even if you have been vaccinated to wear a mask indoors.

For now, if you've been fully vaccinated:

- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace and local businesses.
- People who have a weakened immune should keep taking all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States.

Should I get a flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are for different illnesses. A seasonal flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19. Getting both vaccines will help protect you the most.

Where can I go for more information?

Visit **cdc.gov** to learn more about side effects and tips for after you get the vaccine.

More resources:

- FDA's Moderna COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet
- FDA's Janssen COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet
- FDA's Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Patient Fact Sheet
- FDA's Paxlovid EUA Patient Fact Sheet
- FDA's Molnupiravir EUA Patient Fact Sheet
- CDC COVID-19 Vaccines
- CDC COVID-19 Things You Need to Know

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1 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html

2 Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html

3 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: December 23, 2021 https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-december-23-2021

4 Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html

5 V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html

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