

COVID-19 Vaccines: What to Know

With constantly developing information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, it can be hard to keep track of it all. Because we care about your health, we are providing you with the latest COVID-19 information so you can keep yourself as well as your loved ones informed.

Now that there are authorized and recommended vaccines to prevent COVID-19 in the United States, below are some things to know regarding the available COVID-19 vaccines as updates are made.

1. There Are Vaccines for Emergency Use Authorization.

The [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) and the [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#) are being offered to help prevent COVID-19. Though not FDA approved, they are authorized for emergency use with the promise of altering the course of the pandemic. Vaccines are not interchangeable; you should complete the series with the same product. For those receiving the Pfizer vaccine, the second dose is administered 21 days after the first. Moderna's second dose is administered 28 days after the first dose. Please refer to the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccines page for more information](#).

- After you have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, you will receive a vaccination card with information on what COVID-19 vaccine you received, along with when and where it was administered.
- Remember to ask your provider to give you a [V-safe](#) information sheet. [V-safe](#) is a tool that provides a personalized health check-in after you've received your first vaccine. You will need a smartphone to access V-safe.



2. Certain Groups Are Excluded from Getting the Vaccine.

The FDA has authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in individuals 16 years of age and older and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in individuals 18 years of age or older. People with a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine or to any ingredient of this vaccine should not receive it.

3. There Is Priority for Who Gets the First Vaccines.

Due to initially limited supply, the CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that vaccines be allocated in a phased approach.

Groups recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine			
1a	Health care personnel	1c	Persons aged 65-74 years
	Long-term care facility residents		Persons aged 16-64 years with high-risk medical conditions
1b	Frontline essential workers	Essential workers not recommended for vaccination in Phase 1b	
	Persons aged ≥ 75 years	2	All persons aged ≥ 16 years old not previously recommended for vaccination



COVID-19 Vaccines: What to Know Cont.

For state-specific vaccine information, please follow the links by clicking on the state name:

[Oklahoma](#) | [Louisiana](#) | [Texas](#)

There Might Be Side Effects.

Side effects are possible, but serious reaction is rare. For more information on side effects, please visit the CDC or call your doctor. Side effects can include: Pain, Swelling, Fever, Chills, Exhaustion, Headaches

There is No Cost for the Vaccine.

Whether insured or uninsured, every American is entitled to vaccines to fight against COVID-19 at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot. Under the Affordable Care Act, health plans are required to cover preventive care. Since the vaccine falls under preventive care, you have the right to file a claim.

As Always, Don't forget to:

- Wash your hands
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Use a face mask when around others
- Cover coughs and sneezes

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