

# Getting Vaccinated for COVID-19



Fighting the pandemic has been hard, but now we have three vaccines to protect us from COVID-19.



## **Vaccines are provided at no cost.**

The federal government will cover the cost of your vaccine. You should not be charged or billed. Your provider should also not charge you for an office visit if you only go in to get the vaccine.



## **You may need to get two doses.**

For some vaccines you will need two doses, three to four weeks apart. It is OK if it takes a little longer to get the second dose.



## **Vaccines are safe and effective.**

Although the vaccines were developed in record time, they have gone through the same rigorous Food and Drug Administration (FDA) process, meeting all safety standards. No steps were skipped. Millions of people have been safely vaccinated around the world already.



## **People at highest risk will get the vaccine first.**

As we get more vaccine, more people will be able to be vaccinated. Everyone will be able to get vaccinated when we have enough doses. Visit [cchealth.org/coronavirus](https://cchealth.org/coronavirus) to learn more about when you can get vaccinated.



## **You may feel side effects.**

Like other routine vaccines, you may get a sore arm, fever, headaches, or fatigue after getting vaccinated. These are signs the vaccine is working.



## **Stay safe.**

It takes two weeks after your final dose to get the maximum protection from the vaccines. After you get the vaccine, continue wearing your mask in public, and keep gatherings small for those who haven't been vaccinated.

Questions? Visit: [cchealth.org](https://cchealth.org)

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## What vaccines are available?

There are three vaccines available:

1. **Pfizer-BioNTech**
2. **Moderna**
3. **Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)**

All were approved by the FDA for emergency use. Medical experts on the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup confirmed the vaccines met our standards for safety.

## Who should get a COVID-19 vaccine?

We recommend that everyone who is eligible get vaccinated. As more people are vaccinated and have immunity from COVID, we will gradually be able to return to a more normal way of life. There are some exceptions.

You should not get the vaccine if you have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or to any ingredient in the vaccine. If you have tested positive for COVID, you should wait until you complete your isolation period to get vaccinated.

You must be at least 16 years old to get the PfizerBioNTech vaccine and 18 years old to get the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

## What are the side effects?

It is common to have side effects one or three days after getting the vaccine. Common side effects are tiredness, muscle pain, pain in your arm where you got your shot, fever, headache, joint pain, chills, nausea, or vomiting. An over-the-counter pain reliever can help. If your symptoms don't go away, contact your doctor.

You should wait 15 to 30 minutes before leaving the vaccine site so your vaccine provider can help you if you do have an allergic reaction or other side effects. While you wait, you can sign up for v-safe to report any side effects and get a reminder for your second dose: [v-safe.cdc.gov](https://v-safe.cdc.gov).

You or your vaccine provider can also report side effects to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): [vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html](https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html).

***Call 911 if you have an allergic reaction after leaving the clinic.*** Signs of an allergic reaction include: difficulty breathing, swelling of your face and throat, fast heartbeat, a bad rash all over your body, dizziness, and weakness.

## What happens after I get vaccinated?

A person is considered "fully vaccinated" 14 days after receiving the last required dose of vaccine. Once you are fully vaccinated, you may safely socialize indoors with other vaccinated people without having to social distance or wear a mask. For more information on what kinds of things you can do after you're fully vaccinated, go online and [visit cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).