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Get informed on COVID-19 vaccines

Recently, the United States Food and Drug Administration approved Comirnaty, a vaccine for COVID-19. Multiple other coronavirus vaccines have FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and 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.

What COVID-19 vaccine has received full FDA approval?

On August 23, 2021, the FDA granted the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, now known as Comirnaty®, full approval for people ages 16 years and older.

How many COVID-19 vaccines are authorized?
These vaccines are authorized by the FDA for emergency use in adults 18 years of age and older: Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is also available under emergency use for people ages 12-15 years.

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.

Will children also be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?
CDC recommends everyone 5 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19. They can also help keep your child from getting seriously sick even if they do get COVID-19.

Children ages 5 years and older are able to get an age-appropriate dose of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. This vaccine requires two injections given 21 days apart.[1]

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.

How many doses of the vaccine do I need?
It depends on the vaccine you get. You need 2 doses of the Pfizer[1] and Moderna[2] vaccines. You need 1 dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Who can get a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot?
The CDC now recommends that certain people are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster shot. Booster shots are available for the following groups:

1. People ages 18 and up, who receive either a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can get a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series.

2. People ages 18 and up, who received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine can get a booster shot 2 or more months after they were vaccinated.

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 vaccine 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 dosing for booster shots.

Are there side effects?
The CDC website, cdc.gov, is the best resource for COVID-19 information. Side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine could include pain at the injection site, fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, and/or joint pain.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe[1,3]?

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 individuals. After the vaccination some people experience 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?[4]

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?[4]

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. You must sign up within 42 days of getting your first COVID-19 vaccine dose.

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.

Health officials will keep the public informed with more details.

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

If you are fully vaccinated, you can participate in many of the activities that you did before the pandemic. New CDC guidance now recommends even if you have been vaccinated to wear a mask indoors. This will reduce your risk of becoming infected with the Delta variant and possibly spreading it to others.

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 continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people
- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required 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
- 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 Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html
4 V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html
5 COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html

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