

# WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR VACCINE APPOINTMENT



As we learn more about how the COVID-19 vaccine works in real-world conditions, it is important to continue using all the tools available to help stop the pandemic. Everyone should continue to cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowded places, and wash your hands often.

Because COVID-19 is a new disease with new vaccines, you may have questions about what happens before, during, and after your appointment to get vaccinated. These tips will help you know what to expect when you get vaccinated, what information your provider will give you, and resources you can use to monitor your health after you are vaccinated.

## Before Vaccination

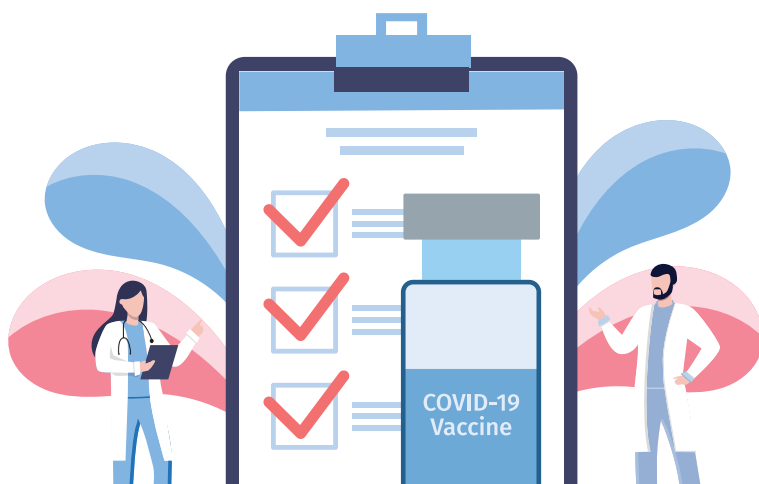
- See if COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for you right now. Certain groups including pregnant women, individuals who have experienced previous allergic reactions, immunocompromised individuals should check with their healthcare provider before getting vaccinated.
- Learn more about the different types of COVID-19 vaccines and how they work.
- Learn more about the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccination.
- When you go to your appointment, remember to wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet away from others. Call ahead to learn what precautions your provider's office or vaccination site is taking and how you can be prepared. Learn more about protecting yourself from COVID-19 during visits to the doctor or a pharmacy.

## When You Get Vaccinated

- You should receive a vaccination card or printout that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date of the vaccination, and location information.
- You should receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you are being offered. Each authorized COVID-19 vaccine has its own fact sheet that contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of receiving that specific vaccine.
- All people who get a COVID-19 vaccine should be monitored on-site. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and rare severe allergic reactions.

## After Vaccination

- As with most vaccines, two shots of the COVID-19 vaccine may be required in order for them to work and provide maximum protection. If you have side effects after the first shot (such as fever, feeling unwell, muscle ache, etc.), you still need to receive the second shot unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to.
- The vaccines may produce short-term (approx. 24-72 hours) side effects after vaccination, particularly after the 2nd dose. Short-term side effects include: injection site pain, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, fever, injection site redness or swelling, nausea, feeling unwell, and swollen lymph nodes. If you think you are having a severe allergic reaction, seek immediate medical care by calling 9-1-1. If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days contact your healthcare provider.
- Ask your healthcare provider about getting started with V-Safe, a free, smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you receive a COVID-19 vaccination. V-Safe also reminds you to get your second dose if you need one. Learn more at [www.cdc.gov/vsafe](http://www.cdc.gov/vsafe).
- It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots may not protect you until a week or two after your second shot.



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