



# Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19 vaccines are an important way to slow the spread of the disease. Getting vaccinated as soon as you're eligible can help slow the spread of the disease and prevent serious illness or even death. Here are other important things to know from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## The vaccine can't give you COVID-19.

None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus itself.<sup>1</sup> They just teach your body's immune system to jump into action, making antibodies to help you fight the virus if you're exposed.

Keep in mind that it takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. This means that you could catch the virus and get sick if you're around someone who has COVID-19 just before or just after your vaccination. Before and after you get vaccinated, it's still important to take steps to protect yourself. (See other side.)

## Side effects should be short-term and are a normal immune response.

Some common side effects may include:

- Minor pain/muscle soreness (in the arm where you get the shot)
- Fever or chills
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Other flu-like symptoms

These reactions mean the vaccine is working to help teach your body how to fight COVID-19 if you're exposed. For most people, these side effects usually only last a few days. Using or exercising the arm where you got the shot can help. So can drinking plenty of fluids. If you have any concerns, call your provider.

**See the back side to learn more.**

**The vaccines at a glance.**

Right now 3 vaccines have been authorized for use in the United States.<sup>2</sup> As soon as you are eligible, you should get the vaccine that's available to you first, whether it comes in 2 shots or 1.

**Pfizer-BioNTech**  
2 shots, 3 weeks/  
21 days apart

**Moderna**  
2 shots, 1 month/  
28 days apart

**Janssen/  
Johnson & Johnson**  
1 shot

## Your vaccination is available at no charge to you.

During the national public health emergency period, FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are available at no charge to you, no matter where you get it. The Federal Trade Commission warns people to watch out for vaccination scams:

- You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine. That's a scam.
- You can't pay to get your name on a list for the vaccine. That's a scam.
- Nobody legit will ask for your Social Security, bank account or credit card number to get a vaccine. That's a scam.

Bottom line: Never give your personal or financial information to someone who calls you with an offer of a vaccine.

## It's still important to take other safety steps.

It takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. Until you are fully vaccinated, you should still wear a mask over your mouth and nose, wash your hands often, avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet away from others. This will also help protect those around you who have not been vaccinated yet.

Learn more about getting vaccinated at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines)

<sup>1</sup>Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine. (2021, January 5). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

<sup>2</sup>As of July 2021