

Getting Vaccinated for COVID-19



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



The vaccine is provided at no cost to you.

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.



Ask how many doses you need.

Depending on which vaccine you receive, you may need between 1 and 3 doses. Check with your medical provider about how many doses you or your child may need. You or your child may also need a booster dose 2-6 months after completing the primary series.



The vaccines are safe and effective.

The vaccines are very effective at preventing COVID-19. All the vaccines are either fully approved or authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—meaning the FDA found no serious safety concerns.



Anyone 6 months and older can get the vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to all people 6 months and older. Visit [VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov](https://www.vaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov) to find and schedule an appointment. You can also call 1-800-525-0127, then press #. For interpretive services, say your language when the call is answered.



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.

After you get the vaccine, wear your mask, stay six feet (two meters) apart, and keep gatherings small.

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What vaccines are available?

There are four vaccines available – Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, and Johnson & Johnson.

All the vaccines are either fully approved or authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)—meaning the FDA found no serious safety concerns.

Who should get a COVID-19 vaccine?

It is your choice to get the vaccine. If you decide to get it, you should tell your vaccine provider if you:

- Have a history of severe allergic reactions
- Have a fever
- Have a bleeding disorder or take blood thinners
- Are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system
- Are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are lactating
- Have received another COVID-19 vaccine

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.

The vaccines contain the active ingredient, along with fat, salts, and sugars to protect the vaccine and help it work better in the body.

You must be at least 6 months old to get the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, 12 years or older to get the Novavax vaccine, and 18 years or older to get the Johnson & Johnson 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. If your symptoms don't go away, contact your doctor or clinic.

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: 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.

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?

If you or your child got a two or three dose vaccine, make an appointment for your next dose(s). You'll need to come back in 3-8 weeks to receive your next dose(s). For more information on the vaccine schedule, please visit doh.wa.gov/covidbooster

It will take up to two weeks after you're fully vaccinated for maximum protection. It's also recommended to get a booster dose in two to six months to keep up your protection.