

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.

You will need two doses of some vaccines, three to four weeks apart. Others are just one dose.



The vaccines are safe and effective.

The vaccines are very effective at preventing COVID-19. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the vaccines for emergency use and found no serious safety concerns.



People at highest risk got the vaccine first.

People at highest risk got the vaccine first. Now that we have more vaccine, all adults can be vaccinated. As the vaccine becomes authorized for more age groups, many youth also will be eligible. For more information, visit [CovidVaccineWA.org](https://www.covidvaccinewa.org) or call 1-833-VAX-HELP (833-829-4357), then press #. Language assistance is available. You can also text your zip code to 438-829 (GET VAX) or 822-862 (VACUNA) for vaccine locations near you.



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.

QUESTIONS? [CovidVaccineWA.org](https://www.covidvaccinewa.org)

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What vaccines are available?

There are multiple vaccines available.

Each was 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.

Making your decision about the 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, messenger RNA (mRNA) or adenovirus, along with fat, salts, and sugars to protect the vaccine and help it work better in the body.

As of May 2021, you must be at least 12 years old to get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 18 years old to get the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. More age groups may be authorized over time.

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 get a two-dose vaccine, make an appointment for your second dose.

You'll need to come back in three to four weeks to get your second dose.

It will take up to two weeks after you're fully vaccinated for maximum protection.

Many people will have to wait months to get vaccinated. After you get the vaccine, keep wearing your mask, stay six feet (two meters) apart, and keep gatherings small.

vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov/

Source: State of Washington Department of Health

