



1. Will I feel any side effects?

COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects, but usually they are mild. Some people have pain where they were injected, body aches, fatigue, headaches, chills or fever, lasting for a day or two. These are signs that your immune system is responding and preparing to fight the coronavirus if you are exposed. If symptoms continue much longer, you should call your doctor.

If you have severe allergies that require you to carry an EpiPen, discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with your doctor, who can assess your risk and provide more information about if or how you can get vaccinated safely.

2. How long will I be protected? Do I have to get shots each year?

COVID-19 is a new disease. That means the vaccines are also new, and scientists don't know yet how long they will protect you. So far, the news is very good — the vaccines given in March 2020 to people in clinical trials are still effective.

It is possible that you will need a booster vaccination later to extend protection. Scientists are studying how long protection lasts and whether we will need booster shots for new coronavirus variants.

3. Will I be protected against coronavirus variants?

The virus is changing over time, and there are different strains, called variants. Scientists are finding new variants in many places around the world. Some of the changes to the virus do not pose a threat. Others could be more worrisome, such as those that make it easier for the virus to spread or that cause more serious health risks.

The current vaccines have shown so far that they can protect against these variants — a good reason for as many people as possible to get vaccinated. The more people who receive the vaccine, the more it will help reduce the spread of the coronavirus. And less virus in our community will also help reduce the chance for new variants to form and spread.



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After the COVID-19 Vaccine

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4. After I'm vaccinated, can I still spread the coronavirus to others?

Maybe. If you are carrying the virus, you can infect another person. Getting the COVID-19 vaccination helps prevent you from getting sick, but less is known about whether you can still carry and spread the virus. Until we know more, continue to follow the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and your local health department.

5. Must we still wear masks, physically distance and wash hands?

Yes. It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. Also, while the vaccine may prevent you from getting sick, it is unknown for now if you can still carry and spread the virus to others. Until more is understood about how well the vaccine works, wearing masks and physical distancing remains important.

6. What can I do after I am fully vaccinated?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), if you've been fully vaccinated (two weeks after both shots of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or two weeks after one shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine), you can:

- Gather indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart.
- Gather indoors with unvaccinated people from one other household without masks or staying 6 feet apart, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- Gather outdoors without wearing a mask except in certain crowded settings and venues.
- If you travel in the United States, you do not need to get tested before or after travel, or self-quarantine after travel.

You should still:

- Wear a mask, stay at least 6 feet apart from others, and avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces when you are:
 - In indoor public settings
 - Gathering with unvaccinated people from more than one other household
 - Visiting with an unvaccinated person who is at increased risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 or who lives with a person at increased risk
- Avoid large indoor gatherings.
- Take steps to protect yourself and others while traveling.
- Watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you are near someone who is sick.
- Get tested, and stay home and away from others, if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Follow guidance at your workplace.
- Latest guidance: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html



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