



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 if we will need booster shots for new 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.



Use your mobile device's camera to scan this QR code and link to the latest COVID-19 vaccine information from Johns Hopkins Medicine.

After the COVID-19 Vaccine

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

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. Do I still have to wear a mask, distance and wash hands?

The CDC recently revised safety guidelines for those who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. The updated guidelines state that fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, **except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.**

The CDC continues to recommend that masks and physical distancing are required when going to the doctor's office, hospitals or long-term care facilities. And it's always a good idea to wash your hands frequently to prevent illness.

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:

- Resume activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, **except where required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.**
- If you travel in the United States, you do not need to get tested before or after travel, or self-quarantine after travel.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live or work in a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

You should still:

- Follow guidance at your workplace and local businesses.
 - While traveling, take steps to protect yourself and others (masking, testing as required by destination).
 - 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.
- Latest guidance: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html



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