



# COVID-19 Vaccines

## Frequently Asked Questions

[Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://michigan.gov/Coronavirus)

The information in this document will change frequently as we learn more about COVID-19 vaccines. There is a lot we are learning as the pandemic and COVID-19 vaccines evolve. The approach in Michigan will adapt as we learn more. August 24, 2021.

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### What's new

- [Additional doses of mRNA vaccines are recommended for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.](#)
- [Stronger recommendations for vaccination for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to become pregnant.](#)
- [FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines protect against Delta and other known variants.](#)

### Why COVID-19 vaccination is important

[If you are fully vaccinated](#), you can start doing many things that you had paused doing because of the pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated:

- Can safely gather with others without wearing a mask. However, there are still [some situations](#) in which masks should be worn.
- [Don't have to test](#) before and after domestic travel.
- Don't have to quarantine after being exposed to COVID-19, as long as asymptomatic.

### Will COVID-19 vaccination help keep me from getting COVID-19?

Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping you from getting COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. Early data show the vaccines do help keep people with no symptoms from spreading COVID-19, but we are learning more as more people get vaccinated. Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Stopping the pandemic requires using all the tools we have available.

## What to expect when you get vaccinated

### Do I have to pay for the vaccine?

No. You will not be charged any fees for the vaccine, even if you don't have health insurance. If you do have insurance, the vaccine provider may charge your insurance an administrative fee, but YOU will not have to pay anything. (If you are uninsured, this fee will come from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider's Relief Fund, NOT you.)

### Do I need an ID or documentation of chronic conditions, employment, or disability to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

In some instances, you may be asked to provide information to verify the county you live in, get you registered, or bill insurance. You may also be asked about your high-risk condition (like chronic conditions, employment or disability) during the registration process. **However, identification/documentation from a healthcare provider is not required to get a vaccine.**

### Can I choose which vaccine I get?

While CDC does not make preference for one vaccine over another, you may be able to pick a vaccine clinic that has the vaccine you wish to get. If your preferred type isn't available, you should take whichever vaccine is available to you. Individuals 12 years and older may receive the Pfizer vaccine. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines are only recommended for those 18 years and older.

### Do minors need consent to receive vaccinations?

Yes. Minors ages 12 through 17 will need a parent or legal guardian consent to be vaccinated.

### Will more than one dose of COVID-19 vaccine be required?

It depends on which vaccine you receive. Some COVID-19 vaccines require two doses to complete the series and to build the best immune response. If a second dose is required, it is very important that you receive the vaccine from the same manufacturer both times and get the doses within the required time frame to ensure the best protection from COVID-19.

- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccine require two doses. If you receive the Pfizer vaccine the second dose needs to be 21 days after the first dose, and the second dose of the Moderna vaccine needs to be 28 days after the first.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires one dose to build the best immune response.

**To ensure the best protection from COVID-19, it is important to not skip the second dose if you received a vaccine that requires two doses. The second dose should be from the same manufacturer. If you can, it would be best to follow up with the same provider who gave you your first shot.**

Some individuals, like those who are immunocompromised, may need to have an [additional dose](#) of vaccine for the best protection. Talk to your healthcare provider to determine if you are recommended to receive an additional dose based on your medical indication.

### **Do COVID-19 vaccines have booster doses?**

Some individuals, like those who are immunocompromised, may need to have an [additional dose](#) of vaccine for the best protection.

Americans who have been fully vaccinated **do not need a booster shot at this time**. FDA, CDC, and NIH are engaged in a science-based, rigorous process to consider whether or when a booster might be necessary. We are prepared for booster doses if and when the science demonstrates that they are needed.

### **What is the difference between an additional dose of vaccine and a booster dose?**

- An **additional dose** of vaccine is for people who did not develop a full immune response after receiving the standard recommended dose of vaccine. The additional dose helps their body develop a better immune response.
- Protection (immunity) from vaccines can wear off at some point in time. A **booster dose** is a supplement to prolong immunity.

### **Now that additional doses are authorized, who can get them?**

Currently, CDC is [recommending](#) that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose. This includes people who have:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies.
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy.
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within two years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy).
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection.
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e.,  $\geq 20$ mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

### **Where can I get an additional dose of mRNA vaccine if I am immunocompromised?**

Any vaccine provider administering mRNA vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna) may give an additional dose to individuals who are moderate to severely immunocompromised. If you need help finding a COVID-19 vaccination site, visit [Vaccines.gov](#) or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 (press 1) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

### **Do I need a prescription to get an additional dose of mRNA if I am immunocompromised?**

No, the state does not require a prescription or other verification by the patient or their medical provider. An additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be given to those people who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#).

### **What should I do if I miss my second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine?**

If an extraordinary event makes it impossible to get the second dose on time, it may be administered up to six weeks (42 days) after the first dose. Beyond six weeks, there is limited data about how effective the vaccine will be, but getting the second dose is still your best protection, so be sure to get your second dose. If you think you will have to miss your appointment for your second dose, call to reschedule right away. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine does not require a second dose.

### **How will I know which brand of vaccine I received?**

You will receive a COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card which will tell you which brand of vaccine you received and when you are due for a second dose, if required. It is important to keep this card.

### **What can I do if I lose my COVID-19 vaccination record card, it is damaged, or if I did not receive a COVID-19 vaccination record card?**

Michiganders, ages 18 years and older, can [access and download their immunization records](#) from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) on their computer or smartphone. Visit [Michigan.gov/MiImmsPortal](https://Michigan.gov/MiImmsPortal) to get started. If an immunization record can't be found, immunization records can be requested from a physician's office or [local health department](#).

- If you did not receive a COVID-19 vaccination record card, contact the facility where you were vaccinated and request either a completed card or a print out from the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) if it was administered in Michigan, be given or sent to you. Both are official vaccination records.
- One great suggestion is to take a picture of your COVID-19 vaccination record card on your mobile phone. This way you have a record of your card in case you lose the actual COVID-19 vaccination record card. As an additional measure, you could laminate your vaccination card to prevent damage.

### **Why does the Johnson & Johnson vaccine require only one dose, when the other vaccines require two doses?**

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine has received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for one-dose and has shown to be effective through studies. It is currently undergoing studies for effectiveness with two doses to see how this vaccine will compare to other COVID-19 vaccines. At this time, you are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

### **What is the difference between and mRNA vaccine and an adenovirus vaccine?**

COVID-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes COVID-19 without us having to get the illness. Different types of vaccines work in different ways to offer protection, but with all types of vaccines, the body is left with knowing how to fight the virus in the future. Neither vaccine uses a live virus – you cannot get COVID-19 from a COVID-19 vaccine.

- **mRNA vaccines give instructions to your cells to make a harmless piece of spike protein from SARS-CoV-2** – the virus that causes COVID-19. Recognizing that the piece of protein doesn't belong there, your immune system builds antibodies and activates T-cells to destroy it. In the future, your cells remember how to destroy the protein, protecting you from the virus.
- **Adenovirus vaccine is a type of vector vaccine. This vaccine uses adenovirus (the virus that causes the common cold) to deliver instructions about COVID-19 to your cells through a piece of spike protein.** Your immune system then builds antibodies and activates T-cells to destroy it. In the future, your cells remember how to destroy the protein, protecting you from the virus.

### **Are the side effects different?**

No matter what vaccine you get, it is normal to have mild side effects like fever, chills, fatigue, and headache as well as pain and swelling in the arm where you received the vaccine. This is your immune system learning how to fight the virus, and indicates the vaccine is working.

### **Is one of the COVID-19 vaccines proven to be safer than the other?**

All COVID-19 vaccines go through the same process to receive emergency use authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is no data to suggest one vaccine is safer than another. At this time CDC is not recommending for certain groups to receive one vaccine over another. The recommendation is to receive the vaccine that is currently available to you.

### **Can any doctor's office, clinic, or pharmacy offer the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Doctor's offices, clinics, and pharmacies who are enrolled in the [vaccination program](#) can offer the vaccine when the vaccine becomes available to them.

### **If I already had COVID-19, should I get vaccinated? Shouldn't I be immune?**

Yes, you should still get the COVID-19 vaccine, even if you have had COVID-19. There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again; this is called natural immunity. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. People who have had COVID-19 can still get a vaccine. CDC recommends getting it after you have recovered. You should check with your health care provider if you have questions.

### **If I am fully vaccinated and exposed to someone with COVID-19, do I still have to quarantine?**

Fully vaccinated persons who meet criteria will no longer be required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19. Individuals should keep their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to confirm their exemption from quarantine. The immune period begins two weeks after vaccination:

- If given a two-dose vaccine series (Pfizer, Moderna) it takes about two weeks after the second dose to build immunity.
- If given one dose of a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson), it takes about two weeks after that dose to build immunity.

Based on the schedules above, the individual may be exempt from quarantine, **provided the individual does not have any COVID-19 symptoms**. This exemption does not apply to vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings.

## Safety of the vaccine

### Is the vaccine safe?

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated. Safety is the first priority in vaccine authorization or approval. The FDA has authorized the emergency use of each of the three COVID-19 vaccines after determining the vaccines meet FDA requirements. And it's important to know that all three of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines were proven to be safe and effective in reducing the risk of severe illness, hospitalizations and death as caused by the virus. While the COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure the safety of any vaccine authorized or approved for use.

More information about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine is available at the [CDC Vaccine Benefits website](#) and the [CDC Vaccine Safety website](#).

### How can a safe vaccine be made so quickly?

Vaccine development typically takes many years. However, scientists had already begun research for coronavirus vaccines during previous outbreaks caused by related coronaviruses (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome). That earlier research provided a head start for rapid development of vaccines to protect against infection with COVID-19. No steps were skipped in the development of this vaccine but modifications to the process were made to shorten the timeline without sacrificing safety, such as:

- Overlapping phase I and phase II clinical trials. Phase I studies include a small number of people and evaluate whether the vaccine causes an immune response and is safe. Scientists looked at data from a group of people in phase I as phase II was progressing to make these evaluations.
- While completing large phase III trials, manufacturers began producing the vaccine, so that if it were shown to be safe and effective, they would have large numbers of doses ready.
- While waiting for a vaccine to be ready, many other aspects of vaccine delivery were prepared (e.g., developing plans for how to distribute the first, limited quantities available, ensuring adequate supplies for distributing and administering vaccine.)

### Can this vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. This vaccine gives your body a code which helps it recognize the virus, so your body can fight it off in the future.

### Can I get other vaccines at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered the same day as other vaccines – there is no longer a waiting period. Your doctor may recommend getting multiple vaccines in one appointment. Be sure to have a discussion with your doctor to discuss what vaccines you may need.

### **Can I be vaccinated if I have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined or isolated for suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2?**

In general, the people scheduled for COVID-19 who are exposed to SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19 illness) and quarantined should reschedule vaccination after their quarantine period has ended in order to avoid the risk of exposing vaccinators to the virus. People diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection (COVID-19 illness) before a scheduled vaccination should wait to be vaccinated until after recovery and the end of the isolation period to avoid the risk of exposing vaccinators to the virus.

- [Ask the Experts about COVID-19 – IAC experts answer Q&As](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the US](#)

### **Can people who are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to become pregnant get the vaccine?**

Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people 12 years and older, including [people who are pregnant](#), breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future. If you have questions about getting vaccinated, talking with your health care professional might help, but is not required.

If you would like to speak to someone about COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy, you can contact MotherToBaby. MotherToBaby experts are available to answer questions in English or Spanish by phone or chat. The free and confidential service is available Monday–Friday 8am–5pm (local time). To reach MotherToBaby:

- Call 1-866-626-6847
- Chat live or send an email [MotherToBaby](#)

[More information for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to become pregnant.](#)

### **Are there any tests people have to get before getting the vaccine?**

No. You should talk with your health care provider about any questions you have due to your personal, specific medical history.

### **Does the vaccine have any side effects?**

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some mild side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but it should go away in a few days. Your arm may be sore, red, or warm to the touch. You may have a low-grade fever, headache, and just a general feeling of “not yourself”. These are signs that your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to, which is produce an immune response for you to have protection against this disease.

### **Can people with a history of allergic reactions get the vaccine?**

Most people who have [food or environmental allergies](#) can still get the vaccine. Prior to getting vaccinated, talk to your health care provider if you have had any severe reactions to medicines or vaccines in the past. Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccines and rare and severe allergic reactions](#).

### **How are side effects being tracked?**

The CDC and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) manage the [Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System](#) (VAERS), a national system to detect any possible symptoms or side effects that occur after someone has had a vaccine. Anyone who had a vaccine can report concerns to VAERS.

### **What is V-safe?**

When you get your vaccine, you will get a link to access the “V-safe [After Vaccination Health Checker](#)” for your phone. Through V-safe, you can quickly tell the CDC if you have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. CDC may follow up by phone to get more information. V-safe will also remind you to get the second COVID-19 vaccine dose when needed.

## **Vaccine distribution/prioritization**

### **When will the vaccine be available?**

Vaccine is available to all Michiganders ages 12 years and older.

### **Who is eligible to be vaccinated?**

All Michiganders ages 12 years and older are eligible to be vaccinated with an age appropriate COVID-19 vaccine.

- Individuals 12 years through 17 years should only receive the Pfizer vaccine. Those 18 years and older may also receive the Pfizer vaccine.
- Moderna and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines are only recommended for those 18 years and older.

### **I am in one of the previous priority groups but haven't been vaccinated, can I still get a vaccine now that it has opened to everyone 12 years and older?**

Yes. All Michiganders ages 12 years and older can be vaccinated. There is enough vaccine for all who choose to be vaccinated.

### **How do I sign up to get vaccinated?**

To find a vaccine visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](#). You can also:

- Check the website of your local health department or hospital to find out their process or for registration forms; or
- Check additional vaccination sites, such as local pharmacies; or
- Residents who don't have access to the internet or who need assistance navigating the vaccine scheduling process can call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 (press 1), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or can call 2-1-1.



### **I have heard about drive through vaccine clinics, where do I find one?**

Vaccination sites will be coordinated through the local health department and may include what are called drive through clinics. Vaccines are delivered while you remain in your car and complete the paperwork as well as the required observation time after you have received your vaccination. Local health departments will communicate availability when these locations are available based on vaccine supplies.

### **How are people who are homeless receiving the vaccine?**

Local health departments will coordinate with Federally Qualified Health Centers and other providers to administer the vaccine to homeless individuals.

### **How are tribal populations receiving the vaccine?**

Vaccine will be administered to tribal members through their tribal health clinics.

### **How are seasonal/migrant workers receiving the vaccine?**

Local health departments coordinate with Federally Qualified Health Centers and other providers to administer the vaccine. [More information on food processing and agricultural workers.](#)

### **Why aren't children younger than age 12 included in the vaccination plan?**

We are awaiting further guidance on whether young children will be recommended for vaccination. Ongoing studies are looking at the safety and efficacy of vaccines for children as young as 6 months old. Young children should still make sure they are up to date on their other important life-saving recommended immunizations.

### **Can I get the second dose of the vaccine in a different state than where I got the first dose?**

If you receive a two dose vaccine series (Pfizer or Moderna) it's important to get the second dose of the same vaccine in the time frame required for your vaccine. You might be able to get that in a different state, but you should check before traveling to ensure availability in that state. Consult that state's COVID-19 vaccine website. Make sure you have your immunization records, including the card you were given when you received your first dose.

## **Additional Vaccine Information**

### **How do I get my vaccine counted in Michigan's data if I was vaccinated in another state?**

Work with your health care provider to ensure immunization data is added in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR, the Michigan system for recording vaccine information). Once data is in MCIR, it will be added to doses administered on Michigan's COVID-19 vaccine dashboard. This would require the individual who was vaccinated out-of-state to take their immunization record card to their health care provider and the provider would be able to add it to the MCIR.

### **Do the COVID-19 vaccines contain fetal cells?**

COVID-19 vaccines do not contain fetal cells, even if a fetal cell line is used during any part of vaccine development and manufacturing. The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine has been

produced by growing the virus in fetal cells during vaccine development and manufacturing (using the PER.C6 line). Such cells were derived from a historic fetal cell line.

The mRNA vaccines (those by Pfizer and Moderna) did not use a fetal cell line to produce or manufacture the vaccine. However, a fetal cell line was used in a very early phase to confirm efficacy prior to production and manufacturing.

Additional information may be found at:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines & Fetal Cells](#)
- [Questions and Answers about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Vaccine Ingredients-Fetal Tissues](#)
- [Immunization Action Coalition](#)
- [Charlotte LOZIER Institute](#)
- [Science Article](#)

### **Will getting a COVID-19 vaccine protect against new variants?**

- FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines protect against Delta and other known variants.
- These vaccines are effective at keeping people from getting COVID-19, getting very sick, and dying.
- People who are vaccinated are also less likely to spread COVID-19.
- We don't know how effective the vaccines will be against new variants that may arise.

### **Do the COVID vaccines protect against the Delta variant?**

Vaccines in the US are highly effective, including against the Delta variant. The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant. But they are not 100% effective and some fully vaccinated people will become infected (called a breakthrough infection) and experience illness. For such people, the vaccine still provides them strong protection against serious illness and death.

### **How much vaccine is going to FQHCs, otherwise known as Community Health Centers?**

The amount of COVID-19 vaccine ordered each week for Michigan providers is available on the [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#). FQHCs have been identified by the federal government and the State of Michigan as an important provider to reach vulnerable populations. The very mission of an FQHC is to provide primary care services in underserved communities. The federal government is providing vaccine to some facilities directly, Michigan is providing vaccine to those FQHCs that were not covered by the federal program.

## **Protecting your privacy**

### **What information will be collected about me when I receive the vaccine?**

By reviewing the vaccine specific Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) document and agreeing to be vaccinated, you allow information such as name, address, date of birth and type of vaccine be shared to the state's registry called the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR).

### **Will information collected about me be shared with anyone?**

The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) database is only visible by approved medical professionals, staff, and local health departments for vaccination purposes, and they must sign the MCIR Usage Agreement, which governs protection of your information.

Michigan will share vaccination information with the CDC but in de-identified aggregate form (i.e., not containing person-level information such as name, date of birth, or address).

### **Where can I get more information?**

- More information is available about coronavirus on the [State of Michigan coronavirus website](#).
- More information is available about COVID-19 vaccines on the [State of Michigan COVID-19 Vaccination website](#).
- If you have additional questions, you can contact the COVID Hotline at 1-888-535-6136.
- For more information about coronavirus review: [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- Providers who wish to enroll in [Michigan's COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#).