

# COVID-19 Vaccines: Who, What, Where, and Why



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# Who Can Get the COVID-19 Vaccine

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidelines to help states, localities, and territories develop their vaccine programs and establish populations for prioritized vaccination. For specific information on vaccine distribution and administration in their area, consumers should contact their [local health department](#).
- Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and the fact that re-infection with COVID-19 is possible, vaccine should be offered to people regardless of whether they already had COVID-19 infection.
- A COVID-19 vaccine may not be available for young children until more studies are completed.
- There are limited data about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for people who are pregnant. For more information, people who are pregnant can visit [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy) or contact their health care provider.
- Personal information collected will remain confidential and will be used solely for public health purposes. **The federal government will not use the information collected for criminal or civil enforcement purposes, including immigration enforcement.**

# COVID-19 Vaccines are Free

COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone for free, regardless of immigration or coverage status. This includes people who are:

- Uninsured.
- Enrolled in private group or individual health insurance coverage.
- Enrolled in State and local group coverage.
- Covered by Original Medicare, a Medicare Advantage Plan, and a Medicare health plan.
- Covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Enrolled in insurance that does not provide coverage of vaccination administration fees.

The vaccine itself will be paid for through funding authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

# COVID-19 Vaccine Administration is Free

Patients should not receive a bill from the COVID-19 Vaccine provider.

## Providers:

- **Must** administer COVID-19 Vaccine at no out-of-pocket cost to the recipient.
- May **not** deny anyone vaccination based on the vaccine recipient's coverage status or network status.
- May **not** charge an office visit or other fee if COVID-19 vaccination is the sole medical service provided.
- May **not** require additional medical services to receive COVID-19 vaccination.
- May **not** seek any reimbursement, including through balance billing, from the vaccine recipient.

Individuals aware of any potential violations of these requirements are encouraged to report them to the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, by calling 1-800-HHS-TIPS or the website [TIPS.HHS.GOV](https://www.tips.hhs.gov).



# COVID-19 Vaccine Administration is Free (Cont.)

- Providers that administer vaccinations to patients without health insurance or whose insurance does not provide coverage of vaccination administration fees **may not charge patients directly for any vaccine administration costs.**
- Providers may seek appropriate reimbursement from a program or plan that covers COVID-19 vaccine administration fees for the vaccine recipient, such as:
  - Vaccine recipient's private insurance company
  - Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement
  - HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program for non-insured vaccine recipients
- For more information, visit [HHS.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/for-patients](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-provider-relief-fund/for-patients).



# Where Consumers Can Get the Vaccine

- Consumers can get their COVID-19 vaccine free of charge at a location that is most convenient for them. They can visit [Vaccines.gov/get-vaccinated/where](https://www.vaccines.gov/get-vaccinated/where) to find a vaccine provider in their area.
- Once vaccine is widely available, the plan is to have several thousand vaccination providers offering COVID-19 vaccines in doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.



# Why Consumers Should Get the Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

- Vaccines are one of the most effective tools to protect people's health and prevent disease.
- The vaccines are safe and cannot give people the disease itself. COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the same safety standards as other routine vaccines.
- Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are very effective at keeping people from getting COVID-19. Experts also think that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep people from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19.
- If a person gets vaccinated, they may also protect people around them.



# What to Expect When Getting a Vaccine

- People should receive a vaccination card or printout that tells them what COVID-19 vaccine they received, the date they received it, and where they received it. People should also receive a paper or electronic version of a fact sheet that tells them more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine they are being offered.
- More than one COVID-19 vaccine may be available, and some vaccines may require a second dose. If an additional dose is required, it's important people get both doses of the vaccine within the timelines suggested.
- Right now, experts don't know how long the vaccine will protect people, so it's a good idea to continue following the guidelines from the CDC and local health departments.

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Services provided by: **COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic**

Division: **Office of Re...**

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.  
Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

\* If you previously received a COVID-19 vaccine, please indicate the date and location.

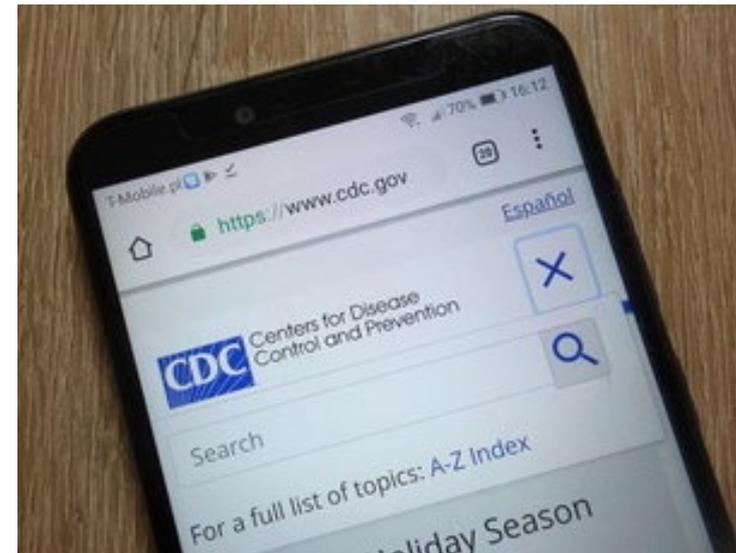
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Patient number (medical record or ID record number): \_\_\_\_\_

Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1st Dose COVID-19	Pfizer/BioNTech	7/21/21	NHL
2nd Dose COVID-19	Pfizer/BioNTech	7/21/21	NHL
Other			
Other			

# What to Expect When Getting a Vaccine (Cont.)

- The vaccines may cause side effects in some people. These reactions mean the vaccine is working. Having these types of side effects does not mean that the person has COVID-19.
  - CDC has developed a new tool, [v-safe](#), as an additional layer of safety monitoring to increase the CDC's ability to rapidly detect any safety issues with COVID-19 vaccines. V-safe is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. For more information, visit [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe).



# Additional COVID-19 Resources

- [COVID-19 Vaccines \(CDC\)](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkits](#)
- [HealthCare.gov/coronavirus](#)
- [CMS COVID-19 Partner Toolkit](#)
- [CMS Office of Minority Health COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [CMS CCIIO Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Guidance](#)
- [Coronavirus.gov](#), [CDC.gov/coronavirus](#), and [USA.gov/coronavirus](#)
- [COVID-19 Fact Sheet for Assisters](#)

