COVID-19 Vaccine:
Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are COVID-19 vaccines free?

COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone ages 5 years and older at **no cost.**

Vaccines were paid for with taxpayer dollars and will be given free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of insurance or immigration status.

COVID-19 vaccination providers **cannot**:

- Charge you for a vaccine
- Charge you directly for any administration fees, copays, or coinsurance
- Deny vaccination to anyone who does not have health insurance coverage, is underinsured, or is out of network
- Charge an office visit or other fee to the recipient if the only service provided is a COVID-19 vaccination
- Require additional services in order for a person to receive a COVID-19 vaccine; however, additional healthcare services can be provided at the same time and billed as appropriate

COVID-19 vaccination providers **can**:

- Seek appropriate reimbursement from the recipient's plan or program (e.g., private health insurance, Medicare, Medicaid) for a vaccine administration fee
- However, providers cannot charge the vaccine recipient the balance of the bill
- Seek appropriate reimbursement for uninsured vaccine recipients from the Health Resources and Services Administration's COVID-19 Uninsured Program

Anyone in the United States Can Get Vaccinated

- The federal government is providing vaccines free of charge to everyone 5 years and older living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status.
- Ensuring that everyone ages 5 years and older in the United States can receive a COVID-19 vaccine helps us get closer to the goal of achieving population immunity. Population immunity makes it harder for COVID-19 to spread from person to person, and it even helps protect people who cannot receive a vaccine, like newborns.
- CDC does not require U.S. citizenship for individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Jurisdictions (state, tribal, local, and territorial) cannot add U.S. citizenship requirements or require U.S. citizenship verification as a requirement for vaccination.

Be Aware of Scams

If anyone asks you to pay for access to a COVID-19 vaccine, you can bet it's a scam. Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to a vaccine for an extra fee.

Source: *https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/no-cost.html*

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2. Can you get your flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time?

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day. If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site. For people ≥11 years, the deltoid muscle can be used for more than one intramuscular injection administered at different sites in the muscle. For children (5–10 years), if more than two vaccines are injected in a single limb, the vastus lateralis muscle of the anterolateral thigh is the preferred site because of greater muscle mass.

Best practices for multiple injections include:

- Label each syringe with the name and the dosage (amount) of the vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
- Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible.
- Administer the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccines that may be more likely to cause a local reaction in different limbs, if possible.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html

3. I didn't get my 2nd COVID-19 vaccine shot a month after my 1st shot. Do I have to start over?

You should get your second shot as close to the recommended 3-week or 4-week interval as possible. You should not get the second dose early. There is currently limited information on the effectiveness of receiving your second shot later than 6 weeks after the first shot. However, if you receive your second shot of COVID-19 vaccine at any time after the recommended date, you do not have to restart the vaccine series, and you can be considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after getting your second shot. This guidance might be updated as more information becomes available.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines that require 2 shots.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html

4. How long after my COVID vaccine can I get a mammogram?

If you are due for a mammogram and have been recently vaccinated for COVID-19, ask your doctor how long you should wait after vaccination to get your mammogram. People who have received a COVID-19 vaccine can have swelling in the lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy) in the underarm near where they got the shot. This is more common after a booster or additional doses than after the primary vaccination series.

This swelling is a normal sign that your body is building protection against COVID-19. However, it is possible that this swelling could cause a false reading on a mammogram. Some experts recommend getting your mammogram before being vaccinated or waiting four to six weeks after getting your vaccine.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/other-procedures.html

5. If I am pregnant or planning to become pregnant, can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future. You might want to have a conversation with your healthcare provider about COVID-19 vaccination. While such a conversation might be helpful, it is not required before vaccination. Learn more about vaccination considerations for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

If you are pregnant and have received a COVID-19 vaccine, we encourage you to enroll in v-safe, which is the CDC's smartphone-based tool that provides personalized health check-ins after vaccination. A v-safe pregnancy registry has been established to gather information on the health of pregnant people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

Source: *https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html*

6. When can I get the booster shot?

People who received a primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series should receive a booster shot at least 6 months after completing the primary series (which may include an additional primary dose in persons with moderate to severe immunocompromise).

People who received the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should receive a booster shot at least 2 months after receiving their primary vaccine dose.

IF YOU RECEIVED Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna	IF YOU RECEIVED Johnson & Johnson's Janssen
Who should get a booster? Everyone 18 years or older	**Who should get a booster?** Everyone 18 years or older
When to get a booster: At least 6 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series	**When to get a booster:** At least 2 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination
Which booster should you get? Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States	**Which booster should you get?** Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States

Source: *https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html*

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7. Do I have to get the same COVID-19 vaccine for my booster shot?

You may choose which COVID-19 vaccine you receive as a booster shot. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. The CDC's recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html

For Healthcare Professionals

Interim Clinical Considerations provide additional information for healthcare providers and public health officials on use of COVID-19 vaccines.

For other questions, see all COVID-19 clinical resources.

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