



COVID-19 VACCINE BASICS

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and work.

A vaccine is designed to prevent diseases. COVID-19 vaccines tell your body how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines cannot give you COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines help protect you from COVID-19 disease. If you do get sick with COVID-19 after being vaccinated, it is less likely that you will get very sick or have to go to the hospital. Everyone age 6 months and older should get vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccines were carefully tested in a diverse group before being authorized for emergency use. Tens of thousands of Black, Latinx, American Indian, and Asian people participated in the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccine studies. We know that these communities, along with our disability and LGBTQ+ communities, are often excluded from the benefits of medicine and experience ongoing and historical racism, medical trauma, and abuse. These factors worsen the impact of COVID-19 for these communities and emphasize the importance that the vaccine works and is safe for all.

No safety steps were skipped in the making of the COVID-19 vaccines. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) required safety data for the vaccines to be authorized. Additionally, medical researchers continue to monitor the vaccines for safety.

What to expect when you get the vaccine

- People trained to give the vaccine will tell you about the process, discuss any potential risks or side effects, and answer questions.
- There are several COVID-19 vaccines available. The number of doses you need will depend on things like your age, the vaccine you first received, and whether you have certain health conditions that weaken your immune system. [Refer to the table on the next page.](#)
- After getting their primary vaccine series, people age 5 years and older should get a booster dose, if eligible.
- It is important to get all vaccine doses recommended for you, including booster doses, to have the best protection against COVID-19. For more information refer to the table below and [CDC: Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html). You will receive a vaccine card when you get your vaccine. This will have which vaccine you received. The person giving you the vaccine can tell you when you need to get another dose.
- You will be monitored after you get the vaccine for any serious side effects.



SIDE EFFECTS

Some people have side effects after getting the vaccine. Side effects usually last one or two days and usually do not prevent you from daily activities. You may have:

-  A sore arm
-  Muscle aches
-  Tiredness
-  Headache
-  Fever/chills

If you have serious side effects, go to a hospital or call 911.

Why should you get the COVID-19 vaccine?

- **Protect yourself** from severe COVID-19 and long-term impacts of COVID-19.
- **Support your community.** Protect those who cannot be vaccinated (very young children) or do not respond well to vaccination (those with weakened immune systems).
- **Vaccine is FREE** for everyone. Insurance and immigration status does not matter.

Who can get the vaccine?



THE VACCINE DOES NOT HAVE



- Preservatives
- Pork products or gelatin
- Egg
- COVID-19 live virus

All Minnesotans age 6 months and older are recommended to get vaccinated.

For tips on making an appointment, visit [COVID-19 Vaccine for Children and Teens \(mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaxforkids/\)](https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/vaxforkids/) or to find a vaccine location visit [Find My Vaccine \(mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/index.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/find-vaccine/index.jsp).

COVID-19 VACCINATION*

Age	Pfizer	Moderna	Novavax	Johnson and Johnson
6 months – 4 years	3-dose primary series	2-dose primary series	Not authorized	Not authorized
5 – 11 years	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended. Must be Pfizer for 5-year-old children. Can be Pfizer or Moderna for those 6 years and older	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna	Not authorized	Not authorized
12 – 17 years	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna	Not authorized
18 years and older	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna	2-dose primary series Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna	1-dose primary series (limited situations) Updated (bivalent) booster recommended and can be Pfizer or Moderna

*Some people with a weak immune system may be recommended to get an additional dose of vaccine as part of their primary vaccine series.

*Novavax can be used as a booster for 18+ in certain situations if you can't get Pfizer or Moderna. Talk to your doctor.



mn.gov/vaccine