

# COVID19 Vaccination ...

## Things to Know and Frequently Asked Questions:



### The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.

- The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19.
- **You need 2 doses of the currently available COVID-19 vaccine.** A second shot 3 weeks after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease.
- **CDC has developed a new tool, v-safe, as an additional layer of safety monitoring to increase our 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. There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States, but supply will increase in the weeks and months to come.
- **The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as large enough quantities are available.** 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.
- **Are there special consideration on who should get the COVID-19 vaccine first?**  
At first, there will be a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine. Operation Warp Speed is working to get those first vaccine doses out once a vaccine is authorized or approved and recommended, rather than waiting until there is enough vaccine for everyone. However, it is important that the initial supplies of vaccine are given to people in a fair, ethical, and transparent way.
- **If I have already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccine?**  
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. Until we have a vaccine available and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices makes recommendations to CDC on how to best use COVID-19 vaccines, CDC cannot comment on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine
- **Why would a vaccine be needed if we can do other things, like social distancing and wearing masks, to prevent the virus that causes COVID-19 from spreading?**  
Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask and staying at least 6 feet away from others, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.
- **What percentage of the population needs to get vaccinated to have herd immunity to COVID-19?**  
Experts do not know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. Herd immunity is a term used to describe when enough people have protection—either from previous infection or vaccination—that it is unlikely a virus or bacteria can spread and cause disease. As a result, everyone within the community is protected even if some people don't have any protection themselves. The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease.
- **When can I stop wearing a mask and avoiding close contact with others after I have been vaccinated?**  
There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC will stop recommending that people wear masks and avoid close contact with others to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before making that decision. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.
- **Cost is not an obstacle to getting vaccinated against COVID-19.**  
Vaccine doses purchased with U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost. However, vaccination providers may be able to charge administration fees for giving the shot. Vaccination providers can get this fee reimbursed by the patient's public or private insurance company or, for uninsured patients, by the Health Resources and Services Administration's Provider Relief Fund external icon.
- **It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often .** If you have any questions please ask you primary care provider and refer to the Centers for Disease Control website for up to date information <https://www.cdc.gov/>.