

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs*

1. Should I get vaccinated for COVID-19?

It is strongly recommended that you get vaccinated. The vaccine works by teaching your immune system how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19 and this protects you from getting sick with COVID-19.

2. Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. The COVID-19 vaccines being given in the United States do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19. However, it typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination.

3. If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

The CDC recommends that you get vaccinated even if you have already had COVID-19, because you may get infected again. While you may have some protection after recovering from COVID-19, it's not known how long this protection lasts.

4. Can my child get vaccinated for COVID-19?

No. COVID-19 vaccines are not recommended for children younger than age 16.

5. Is it safe to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I have an underlying medical condition?

Yes. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. This vaccine is especially important for people with health problems like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and obesity.

6. Why do I need two COVID-19 shots?

The current vaccines require two doses, which give the best protection. The first shot helps the immune system recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune response.

7. Will the shot hurt or make me sick?

There may be side effects, such as a sore arm, headache, fever, or body aches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. They are signs that the vaccine is working to build immunity. If they don't go away in a week or you have more serious symptoms, call your doctor.

8. Are there long-term side effects from COVID-19 vaccine?

It will take more time and more people getting vaccinated to know if there may be very rare or possible long-term side effects. At least eight weeks' worth of safety data were gathered in clinical trials for the authorized vaccines. It's unusual for side effects to appear more than eight weeks after vaccination.

9. How do I know if COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

All vaccines were tested in clinical trials involving thousands of people to make sure they meet safety standards. There were no serious safety concerns. The CDC and FDA will continue to look for safety issues.

10. If I have a reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, who do I call?

If you have a reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, you can utilize V-safe on your smartphone at vsafe.cdc.gov. If you do not have a smartphone, please contact the health department that provided your vaccination.

11. Do I have to have insurance to be vaccinated? How much will it cost?

No, you do not need to have insurance. There is no cost to receive the vaccine.

12. When can I get vaccinated?

You will have to wait until your phase is called as recommended by the CDC. The supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is expected to be limited at first.

Vaccine Distribution Phases

Phase 1A

Healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents and staff
EMS staff, Paramedics
Adults aged 65 and older and as well as their one of their caregivers, law enforcement, fire fighters and other first responders

Phase 1B

Law enforcement and Fire personnel
Frontline critical workforce employees, such as educational faculty and staff, court employees, food processing staff, grocery workers, transportation/public transit staff, health care distribution employees, coroners, corrections employees, USPS employees

Phase 1C

Adults below age 64 with high-risk medical conditions
Other essential workers

Phase 2

Adults between the ages of 40 to 64
Individuals in congregate settings, such as homeless shelters, group homes, dormitories
Individuals in jails, prisons, detention centers
Any others living in congregate settings

Phase 3

Workers in industries important to a functioning society and at moderate risk of exposure as listed in the executive orders, such as restaurant workers, hairstylists, barbers, etc.
Young adults aged 16 to 39

Phase 4

Everyone residing in Georgia for whom the vaccine is recommended, who was not included in any of the previous phases. Children, once the vaccine is approved for pediatric use.

As vaccine availability increases, recommendations from the ACIP will expand to include more groups. Our goal is for everyone to receive a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available.

13. Where can I get vaccinated?

If your primary care provider cannot give it to you, check our website for updates on locations and distribution; www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com/covid-19.

14. How is the vaccine being distributed to long-term care facilities?

Each long-term care facility is responsible for contracting with CVS to acquire and administer their vaccinations.

15. If I am in Phase 1B or 1C, how will I be notified when the vaccine is available for me?

Please check www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com for updates as they become available.

You may register for the vaccine at: www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com or if you need assistance, call 706-321-6300, Option 1. Please note that wait times are long.