



COVID-19

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

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COVID-19 vaccination will help keep you from getting COVID-19

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be safe and effective at preventing COVID-19. [Learn more about the different COVID-19 vaccines.](#)
- All COVID-19 vaccines that are in development are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and will be authorized or approved only if they make it substantially less likely you will get COVID-19. [Learn more about how federal partners are ensuring COVID-19 vaccines work.](#)
- Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine also helps keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, [particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.](#)
- Experts continue to conduct studies to learn more about how COVID-19 vaccination may reduce spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Once you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing more

- [After you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19](#), you may be able to start doing some things that you stopped doing because of the pandemic. For example, you can gather indoors without masks with other people who are fully vaccinated.
- We are still learning how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19. Until we know more about how vaccines will affect the spread of COVID-19, people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 should keep [taking precautions](#) in public places like wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and washing your hands often.
- People are not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after their second dose of the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#) COVID-19 vaccine, or two weeks after a single-dose [Johnson & Johnson's Janssen](#) COVID-19 vaccine. You should keep using all the tools available [to protect yourself and others](#) until you are fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection

- COVID-19 can have [serious, life-threatening complications](#), and there is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. And if you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family, and others around you.
- Clinical trials for all vaccines must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use, including COVID-19 vaccines. The known and potential benefits of a COVID-19 vaccine must outweigh the known and potential risks of the vaccine before it is used under what is known as an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). [Watch a video explaining an EUA.](#)
- Getting COVID-19 may offer some protection, known as natural immunity. Current evidence suggests that reinfection with the virus that causes COVID-19 is uncommon in the months after initial infection, but may increase with time. The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity. COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by creating an antibody (immune system) response without having to experience sickness.

- Both natural immunity and immunity produced by a vaccine are important parts of COVID-19 disease that experts are trying to learn more about, and CDC will keep the public informed as new evidence becomes available.

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

- Wearing masks and staying 6 feet apart from others help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Vaccines will work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed.
- A growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to be infected without showing symptoms (called an asymptomatic infection) and potentially less likely to spread the virus that causes COVID-19 to others. However, further investigation is ongoing.
- Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. As experts learn more about how COVID-19 vaccination may help reduce spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, CDC will continue to update its recommendations to protect communities using the latest science.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated now that COVID-19 vaccines are available in the United States. While more COVID-19 vaccines are [being developed](#) as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to [ensure the safety](#) of any vaccine that is authorized or approved for use. Safety is a top priority, and there are many reasons to get vaccinated.

None of the COVID-19 vaccines can make you sick with COVID-19

None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. Learn more [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Related Pages

- › [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- › [Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#)

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