

COVID VACCINE INFORMATION

IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

CAN I STOP WEARING A MASK?



**COVID-19 VACCINE
BREAKTHROUGH**



COVID VACCINE FAQ

- Can the COVID vaccine give me coronavirus?
 - No. None of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus, so it cannot make you sick. The current vaccines give your body instructions which help it recognize the virus, so your body can fight it off in the future if you are exposed to coronavirus.
- Once I'm vaccinated will I test positive on a COVID-19 test?
 - No. You will not test positive on a viral COVID-19 test from the vaccine. This does not mean that you cannot possibly test positive for COVID-19 once you are fully vaccinated. There have been reports that vaccinated people have become infected with coronavirus and passed the virus to others. The vaccine prevents you from becoming ill with COVID-19, not from catching the virus. There is also the possibility you may test positive on a COVID antibody test, as the vaccine causes your body to develop an immune response.
- Does the vaccine have any side effects?
 - You may experience some mild side effects, such as sore arm, low-grade fever, headache, tiredness. It is a normal sign that the vaccine is helping your body build immunity against the coronavirus.
- Will I have to quarantine and miss work after I get the vaccine?
 - Receiving the vaccine does not require quarantine. However, it will take several weeks for your body to build up a sufficient immune response after being vaccinated. So you can become infected with COVID-19 just before or after vaccination. If you feel you may have symptoms of COVID-19 (and not just side effects of the vaccine) or come into contact with someone who has tested positive, talk with your doctor, get tested and quarantine until you receive negative test results.

COVID VACCINE FAQ

- Why do some vaccines require two shots?
 - The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines need two shots to be effective. The first shot prepares the immune system to recognize the virus, and the second shot strengthens the immune system. It is very important to receive both doses from the same manufacturer within the required time frame for best protection. Pfizer – second dose 21 days after the first; Moderna – second dose 28 days after the first. The Johnson & Johnson vaccination is a single dose.
- Can I still get coronavirus between my first and second shot?
 - Yes. For the COVID vaccines in the 2-dose series, both shots are needed for the best protection, and it will take about 2 weeks after the second dose before you receive the highest level of protection. Because one dose will not provide full immunity, you can become infected with coronavirus between doses. Even when you are fully vaccinated you can still become infected with coronavirus and pass it to others, though you are unlikely to become ill. Continue to wear your mask and social distance before and after your first and second doses to protect yourself and your community.
- What if I am not in Michigan when it is time for my second shot? Can I get it in another state?
 - It is very important you receive the second dose of the same vaccine in the recommended time frame. Consult the state's COVID vaccine website to check before traveling to ensure that there is availability in that state.. Make sure to bring your immunization card that you receive with your first dose when you travel.
- If I have a medical condition or have had a serious illness in the past, is the vaccine safe for me?
 - The vaccine is proven safe for most people, including those with medical conditions, as long as they have not had an immediate or severe allergic reaction to a previous COVID vaccine. Before getting vaccinated talk with your doctor about your specific situation.

COVID VACCINE FAQ

- Can pregnant women get the COVID vaccine?
 - Yes. Pregnant women and those planning to become pregnant can get the vaccine as soon as they are eligible. There is currently no evidence that the COVID vaccine will negatively affect a pregnancy or future fertility. However, the CDC suggests consulting your healthcare provider to help make the most informed decision.
- Do the new variants spread more easily and more quickly?
 - Yes. Some variants of coronavirus spread more easily, so it is important to continue wearing a mask and social distancing. You can help slow the spread by getting the vaccine as soon as you are able.
- If I already had COVID-19, do I still need the vaccine? Aren't I immune?
 - You should still get the COVID vaccine, even if you have had COVID-19 in the past. The information on “natural immunity” is sparse and early evidence suggests that it may not last very long. Vaccination is your best bet for true immunity from severe illness caused by coronavirus.
- Do I have to pay for the vaccine?
 - No. You will not be charged any fees for the vaccine, regardless of if you have health insurance coverage or not. If you do have health insurance, the vaccine provider may choose to charge your insurance an administrative fee, but you will not have to pay anything out of pocket.

COVID VACCINE FAQ

- Do I need an ID to get vaccinated?
 - An ID is not required for a vaccine. However you may be asked to provide information to verify the county you live in, your age or occupation, to get you registered, or to bill your insurance.
 - You will not be required to provide or confirm your immigration status to received the vaccine.
- Do I still need to wear a mask if I am fully vaccinated?
 - Yes. Though the vaccine will prevent you from becoming ill with COVID-19 if you are exposed to the coronavirus, it may not prevent you from infecting someone else with the virus. Until a large majority of the population is vaccinated, creating “herd immunity” we must all continue to do our part to protect others from the virus by wearing a mask when we are in public spaces.
- Do I still need to be socially distanced from others if I am fully vaccinated?
 - Yes. As we work to eliminate the virus through vaccination, we must continue to follow guidelines like distancing, masks, and increased cleaning to prevent more people from getting sick with COVID-19 before they can get vaccinated.
- Which vaccine will I be receiving?
 - The vaccine you receive will depend on the supply of doses your vaccination center has received. If you would like to know ahead of time, call your vaccination center and ask them if they know which vaccine will be given on the day of your scheduled appointment.

WHAT ARE THE VACCINES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ?

■ **Pfizer-BioNTech**

- 2 doses – 21 days apart
- Injection in the non-dominant upper arm
- For ages 16 and older
- mRNA vaccine

■ **Moderna**

- 2 doses – 28 days apart
- Injection in the non-dominant upper arm
- For ages 18 and older
- mRNA vaccine

■ **Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)**

- 1 dose
- Injection in the non-dominant upper arm
- For ages 18 and older
- Viral vector vaccine

HOW DOES THE VACCINE WORK?

- **mRNA** (Pfizer/Moderna)
 - Messenger RNA vaccines take advantage of the process that cells use to make proteins in order to trigger an immune response and build immunity to SARS-CoV-2 (the COVID-19 virus). The mRNA are the “instructions” for the cell on how to make a piece of the “spike protein” that is unique to SARS-CoV-2, but not the whole protein, so the person does not become sick with COVID-19.
 - The technology is new, but not unknown – scientists have been studying them for more than a decade to protect the public from viral respiratory illnesses.
 - This vaccine does not contain the live virus, so it cannot infect you with COVID-19. The mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell and does not affect or interact with a person’s DNA
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/mrna-vaccine-basics.html>
- **Viral Vector** (Johnson & Johnson)
 - This type of vaccine was most recently used to treat Ebola outbreaks. It does not integrate to a person’s DNA, it instructs the person’s cells to make a COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) antigen called the spike protein. This antigen triggers the production of antibodies and a resulting immune response.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/viral-vector-vaccine-basics.html>

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT

- Bring something to confirm your identity (name, residency, employment).
 - Driver's license or State ID
 - Work ID/Pay stub
 - Appointment confirmation
 - Paperwork with your name/address (utility bill, bank statement, etc)
 - Vaccination form (some locations)
- Each vaccination location will have their own requirements, so make sure to check what to bring when signing up for your appointment.
- **WEAR A MASK!** Wearing 2 is even better (paper medical mask with a cloth mask over top). Make sure that mask is covering your nose and mouth, with no gaps (around nose, cheeks & chin) that allow respiratory droplets in or out.
- When returning for your 2nd dose, make sure to bring your Vaccination Card with you.

WHAT TO DO AFTER YOUR VACCINATION

- Make sure you receive your Vaccination Card from the healthcare provider who administers your 1st dose. This card will list your name, the vaccination you received (and when) and the date for your 2nd vaccination (if scheduled when you receive your 1st dose).
- Drink plenty of fluids and get some rest. You may experience flu-like side effects as your body uses the vaccine to build an immune response to the virus.
- If you believe you are having a severe allergic reaction contact your doctor and emergency services.
- Monitor your temperature if you are feeling feverish.
- Continue wearing your mask, social distancing, and washing your hands frequently. You can still catch COVID-19 between doses and become ill. There have also been instances of fully-vaccinated people catching coronavirus and being asymptomatic and passing the virus onto unvaccinated people. The vaccine will protect you from becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19 but you still need to do your part to prevent yourself from catching the virus and spreading it to others, especially those who are not yet vaccinated.

COMMON VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

- * Side effects after a vaccination are normal and a sign that your body is using the vaccine to build up its immunity response to the virus.
- Injection site pain/swelling/rash
 - Pain in upper arm when moving arm or pressing injection site area, the site might also have mild swelling, or warmth
 - A red color rash around the injection site, called “COVID arm” is a normal response in the 1-2 weeks after injection. If the rash is itchy or painful you can take an antihistamine or pain reliver. Make sure to tell your vaccine provider of this reaction; the 2nd dose may be given in the opposite arm.
- Low-grade Fever/chills
- Headache
- Body Aches
- Fatigue/Tiredness
- Nausea or diarrhea
- Severe allergic reactions are rare and usually occur within a few minutes of injection (or up to 4 hours after). There is a mandatory 15-30 minute waiting period after injection to check for reactions. If you are prone to severe vaccination/medication allergy reactions, make sure to tell the healthcare provider giving you the vaccine, so that they make keep an eye on your reaction and provide medical assistance if needed.
 - If you have a severe reaction (requiring Epinephrine injection or hospital visit) you should not get the 2nd dose of the vaccine without speaking with your doctor
 - Allergic reactions may include: hives, swelling, wheezing
 - * If you have a severe reaction or your side effects do not improve after several days, call your doctor or emergency services (if you cannot breathe).
- Side effects of the 2nd dose may be more severe than after the 1st dose.
- Side effects will vary person to person. Your friend's or family member's side effects may be different from your own.

HOW TO TREAT YOUR VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

- To relieve injection site swelling, cover the area with a cool, wet washcloth
- To relieve injection site pain, try to move your arm to relieve the muscle tension which causes the arm pain
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Take pain relievers sparingly (if taking for fever, you may not be able to determine whether the fever has gone away on its own)
- Rest/take it easy for a few days
- If you have a fever over 100.4°F, you should stay home from school/work and rest. If your fever climbs even higher (101-103°F), call your doctor.

HOW TO REPORT YOUR SIDE EFFECTS

- * If you are having a severe allergic reaction, call emergency services and your healthcare provider.
- [V-Safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#) - CDC
 - Smartphone App
 - Uses text messaging & web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after your COVID vaccination.
 - [Register for V-Safe](#), then enter information about the COVID vaccine you received. Now you can start your health check-ins.
 - If you register before 2pm, your initial check-in will start around 2pm that day. If you register after 2pm, you check-in will start immediately after registration.
 - If you need help with V-Safe you can call **(800) 232-4636** (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or submit a comment via the [CDC Contact Form](#).
- [VAERS](#) (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) - HHS
 - Report an Adverse Event using the [VAERS Online Form](#) or use the [fillable PDF form](#) and upload the form back to the VAERS website
 - If you need help reporting your reaction, email info@VAERS.org or call **(800) 822-7967**.