



COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

Why should I get vaccinated?

- All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19 or becoming seriously ill due to COVID-19.
- The vaccines are tested, safe, and effective.
- The vaccine is free to everyone.
- COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection. It safely increases your body's natural ability to fight the virus before the body attacks.
- Vaccinated individuals are less likely to spread the virus to others.
- The COVID-19 vaccines will help us get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love.

Are vaccines safe?

- All vaccines must first show they are safe and effective before any vaccine can be authorized or approved for use.
- COVID-19 vaccines are built on years of work to develop vaccines for similar viruses.
- More than 100,000 people volunteered for clinical trials and there were no serious safety concerns in the clinical trials with any vaccine.
- Individuals cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. Vaccines imitate COVID without actually giving it to you.
- Temporary reactions like a sore arm, headache, or feeling tired and achy may occur for a day or two after being vaccinated.
- Your privacy and personal information are protected at all times. We do not send any personal information to the CDC or ICE.

Who can receive a vaccine?

- Vaccines will be available to all.
- Vaccines are distributed based on the NCDHHS Group Distribution Guidelines and prioritized groups are based on those at the higher risk of exposure to the virus, sickness and death.
- Vaccines are free to everyone even if you don't have health insurance.
- Equity is embedded into every part of the vaccine process. North Carolina has developed and implemented a plan to reach those in historically marginalized communities.

I'm vaccinated, now what?

- Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.
- Vaccinated individuals should continue practicing the 3 Ws and limiting social gatherings outside the home until most people are vaccinated.
- Help your neighbors. Direct individuals to reliable information about vaccines, share your positive experiences of your vaccination with others, and assist others with where to find available vaccination locations.