

# COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions Facing COVID-19 Together

## Staying healthy!

### Will the COVID-19 vaccination help keep me from getting COVID-19?

Yes, vaccines work with your immune system so it will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Getting vaccinated may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Wearing masks and social distancing help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others, but these measures are not enough. Stopping the pandemic requires using all the tools we have available.

### Can this vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. This vaccine gives your body a code which helps it recognize the virus, so your body can fight it off in the future.

## Staying Safe!

### Is the vaccine safe?

We understand that some people may be concerned about getting vaccinated. Safety is the first priority. The process used to approve COVID-19 vaccines, is the same proven process that was used to create safe and effective vaccines for the flu, polio, measles, whooping cough and more. While COVID-19 vaccines are being developed as quickly as possible, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure the safety of any vaccine authorized or approved for use.

### How can a safe vaccine be made so quickly?

Vaccine development typically takes many years. However, scientists had already begun research for coronavirus vaccines during previous outbreaks caused by related coronaviruses (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome). That earlier research provided a head start for rapid development of vaccines to protect against infection with COVID-19. No steps were skipped in the development of this vaccine, but modifications to the process were made to shorten the timeline without sacrificing safety.

### Does the vaccine have any side effects?

After the COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some mild side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. Like with a flu shot, some people have reported mild fatigue, headache, body aches, chills and pain at the injection site for a day or two.

# What to Expect?

## Does it require more than one dose to be effective?

Yes, two doses are needed, a few weeks apart, from the same manufacturer.

- If you receive the **Pfizer** vaccine, the second dose needs to be 21 days after the first dose.
- If you receive and the **Moderna** vaccine, the second dose needs to be 28 days after the first dose.
- To make sure the vaccine is effective, it's recommended that you see the same provider for both doses.
- Request a completed COVID-19 vaccination record card and keep it safe for your records.

## Is there a cost to get vaccinated?

No. The vaccine is FREE for Medicaid members.

# Vaccine Distribution

## Who will get the vaccine first?

Currently, Michigan residents 65 years and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. For more information about the vaccine and vaccine locations, please visit [www.michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](http://www.michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine)

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has prioritized the vaccine distribution in the following order:

1. Health care workers, long-term care workers and residents, and essential workers not in healthcare
2. People 65 and older
3. Adults 18-64 with high-risk medical conditions
4. Anyone 16 or older who was not covered in the previous groups

## How will Michigan distribute COVID-19 vaccines?

People covered	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec.
Health care workers	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
Long-term care residents/staff	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
Anyone 65 years and older	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
Frontline responders	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
School and child care staff	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
Corrections staff	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
Other essential frontline workers	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
18-64 with preexisting conditions	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
All remaining essential workers	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core
Anyone 16 years and older	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core	Core

\* As of January 6, 2021  
Credit: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

 Core vaccine administration period  
 Vaccines continue to be available for anyone not yet vaccinated

## Where can I get the vaccine?

Visit [www.Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](http://www.Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine) for information on where to make an appointment at available healthcare providers and local health agencies.

## Important Things to Remember

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

Yes, you should still get the COVID-19 vaccine, even if you have had COVID-19. There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again.

### What should I do if I am Pregnant?

MDHHS is advising that pregnancy is listed as one of the conditions that put women at increased risk for severe COVID-19 related illness. Please contact your provider to discuss the vaccine and if you should get the vaccination.

### Will I still need to wear a mask, practice social distancing, wash my hands, and limit my exposure to others after I get a vaccine?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide, it will be important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic. It will take several months for vaccine supply to become widely available to all the population and it is important to continue to maintain proper preventative measures to control spread. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. They include:

- **Wash your hands** often with plain soap and water. The CDC recommends washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. It's important to wash your hands after being in a public place, blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, the CDC recommends using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a cloth face covering or non-surgical mask when around others. Find more information about [how to select, wear, and clean your mask](#).
- **Avoid crowds and practice social distancing** by staying at least 6 feet apart from others.

### If I have a problem or bad reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, how do I report it?

The CDC is launching V-safe, a new smartphone tool for people who've been vaccinated. Enroll to get text messages directing you how to report any problems you may have after vaccination.

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