

# 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.

#### **Were minorities or people with high-risk health conditions included in the clinical studies?**

Yes. The Phase 3 clinical trials for the Pfizer vaccine (more than 43,000 participants) and Moderna vaccine (more than 30,000 participants) included communities that have historically

been under-represented in clinical research and have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Approximately 42% of participants in Pfizer's worldwide clinical trials, and 37% of the Moderna study population were from communities of color, which is similar to the diversity of the U.S. at large. In addition, the clinical studies included participants over age 65 (21% of Pfizer participants; 23% of Moderna participants); and those with high-risk chronic diseases that put them at increased risk of severe COVID-19, such as diabetes, severe obesity, and cardiac disease (46% of Pfizer participants; 42% of Moderna participants).

### **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.

### **Is the vaccine safe for people that have allergies?**

Yes, most people who have food or environmental allergies can still get the vaccine. Prior to getting the vaccine, please talk to your health care provider if you have had any severe reactions to medicines or vaccines in the past.

### **How do I know which sources of COVID-19 vaccine information are accurate?**

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. The internet, unfortunately, can be filled with dangerous misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines. The best thing you can do is educate yourself about the vaccines with trustworthy information. Learn more about finding credible vaccine information in this article from the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/evalwebs.htm>.

## **What to Expect?**

### **What vaccines are currently available?**

There are now three vaccines available: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson.

### **Do any of the vaccines require more than one dose to be effective?**

Yes, two doses are needed, a few weeks apart, from the same manufacturer for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

- 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.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires a single dose to be effective.

### **Is there a cost to get vaccinated?**

No. The vaccine is FREE for Medicaid members.

# Vaccine Distribution

## Who is currently eligible for the vaccine?

Currently, Michigan residents 12 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. Adults 65 and older
3. Adults 18-64 with high-risk medical conditions
4. Adults 50 and older
5. Residents 16 and older

## How will Michigan distribute COVID-19 vaccines?

		Estimated schedule for first doses administered													
Phase	People covered	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1A	Healthcare workers	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]													
	Long term care residents and staff	[Green bar from Dec to Dec]													
1B	75 years+ not covered above	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]													
	Prioritized frontline responders	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]													
	School and child care staff	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]													
	Corrections staff	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]													
	Agriculture/food processing workers	[White bar from Dec to Feb]				[Green bar from March 1st to Dec]									
	Other essential frontline workers	[White bar from Dec to Feb]					[Green bar from March to Dec]								
1C	65-74 years old	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]													
	50-64 with disabilities/pre-existing conditions	[White bar from Dec to Feb]				[Green bar from March 8th to Dec]									
	Caregivers of children with special health care needs	[White bar from Dec to Feb]				[Green bar from March 8th to Dec]									
	16-49 with disabilities/pre-existing conditions	[White bar from Dec to Feb]					[Green bar from March to Dec]								
	Remaining essential workers	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]													
2	50 to 64 years not covered above	[White bar from Dec to Feb]				[Green bar from March 22nd to Dec]									
	16 to 49 years not covered above	[Green bar from Jan to Dec]													

\* As of 3/1/2021  
Credit: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

## Are minority populations prioritized to receive the vaccine?

Yes, the state uses the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) indicators to help prioritize distribution of scarce resources such as COVID-19 testing sites and vaccinations to ensure effectiveness and equity for all Michiganders.

## 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. If you need help scheduling your vaccine appointment, please call 2-1-1 or the COVID Hotline at (888) 535-6136. Vaccine availability may vary by county.

## 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.

### If I am nursing my baby, can I get the COVID-19 shot?

Yes. Nursing mothers were not involved in the studies, but experts think that COVID-19 shots should be given to nursing moms who are able to take the shot. The benefits of getting the shot is thought to be more than the risk of not getting one. You do not need to stop nursing to get the COVID-19 shot(s). You can keep breast feeding after you get the COVID-19 shot.

### Can children get the vaccine?

Currently children 12 and older can receive the Pfizer vaccine.

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

V-Safe is a smartphone based tool available to quickly tell the CDC if you have any side effects after getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Register by visiting [vsafe.cdc.gov](http://vsafe.cdc.gov).

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ATTENTION: If you speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-888-898-7969 (TTY: 711). ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-898-7969 (TTY: 711).

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