

# COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently asked questions

The COVID-19 vaccines can help keep you from getting COVID-19. COVID-19 is a virus that makes people sick. It can lead to hospitalization and even death. The COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you and those you love. It can help keep everyone else around you from getting sick and suffering from COVID. As more and more people get the vaccines, the chances of getting COVID-19 go down. Our communities are healthier. Our doctors and nurses will be able to control the virus and stop the pandemic. You will be able to get back to spending time with friends and family, doing the things that are important to you without worry. To help make this happen, it's important to keep following prevention steps and consider getting the vaccine.

## Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe. They have had the same safety testing as all other vaccines used in the United States.

## Do the vaccines work?

Right now, there are several vaccines being used. All of the vaccines are known to be safe. They will help keep you safe from COVID-19 infection. They also prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. It's best to get the vaccine that's available to you, regardless which vaccine it is.

## How much does it cost to get a vaccine?

Nothing. The vaccines are being provided by the government (U.S. taxpayers). There is a small cost for giving you the vaccine. This bill will be sent to your insurance company. If you don't have insurance, the cost is billed to a special fund set up by the government.

## 5 Fast Facts

- 1 COVID-19 vaccines won't give you the virus.** They don't contain any part of the virus, so can't cause you to get COVID-19. You may have side effects after you get vaccinated, like a sore arm or fever. These are normal and common.
- 2 COVID-19 vaccines are safe, even though they were developed quickly.** No steps were skipped when making the COVID-19 vaccines. Scientists have been working on these types of vaccines for a long time. This is why it was possible to make a safe and effective vaccine so quickly.
- 3 COVID-19 vaccines may protect you against more than one strain of the virus.** Viruses change over time. Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the new versions of the virus we've seen so far.
- 4 COVID-19 vaccines don't change your DNA.** They simply tell your body to create antibodies that keep you from getting the virus.
- 5 COVID-19 vaccines don't contain microchips or tracking devices.** This information is not true. We know exactly what is in each vaccine. The list of ingredients in each vaccine can be found at this link: [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine/#mrna](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine/#mrna).

## **Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as another vaccine?**

Yes. The CDC says that you can get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time—or close to same timeframe—as any other vaccine (such as the flu or HPV vaccines).

## **I have a chronic disease. Should I get the vaccine?**

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for people with chronic diseases or conditions. People with chronic diseases or conditions should get the vaccine as soon as it is your turn. If you have a chronic disease, like diabetes, you are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

## **Do I still need to wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from others after I get the vaccine?**

Yes. It's important to continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance from others. COVID-19 vaccines can keep you from getting sick with COVID-19. However, we don't know yet if they can keep you from giving the virus to others.

## **Do I still need to isolate if I test positive for COVID-19 after I get the vaccine?**

Yes. You should isolate if you test positive or have symptoms of COVID-19, even if you have gotten 1 or 2 doses of the vaccine. You should stay away from others anytime you feel sick so they don't get sick too.

## **Do I need to be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. resident, or have a visa to get the vaccine?**

No. Your personal information is confidential and protected by law. If you are in a high-risk group, ask your employer or local health department how and when you can get the vaccine.

## **Should I get the vaccine if I'm pregnant or trying to get pregnant?**

The decision to get a vaccine is up to you. The vaccines have not been tested with pregnant women. It is recommended that you discuss your concerns and make a decision with your healthcare provider. This is what the experts at the CDC say:

“The COVID-19 vaccine, like other vaccines, works by training our bodies to develop antibodies to fight against the virus that causes COVID-19, to prevent future illness. There is currently no evidence that antibodies formed from COVID-19 vaccination cause any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta. In addition, there is no evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of ANY vaccine. People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them.”

## **What if I have an imaging test or mammogram appointment coming up?**

Whether you get 1 or 2 doses of the vaccine, you should wait at least 4 weeks after your second dose before having any type of breast imaging. This is because you may have swollen lymph nodes on the same side where you got your vaccine. Check with your doctor about any other imaging tests.

# When can I get the vaccine?

To find out who can get the vaccine right now, go to [intermountain.com/covidvaccine](http://intermountain.com/covidvaccine). There, you can see when people living in Utah, Nevada, and Idaho can get their vaccine.

You can also make an appointment through your local health department. You can find a list of local health departments at [Intermountain.com/covidvaccine](http://Intermountain.com/covidvaccine) or [coronavirus.utah.gov](http://coronavirus.utah.gov).

## Questions for my doctor

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Some of the content in this handout was adapted from the Utah Department of Health. Learn more at [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine/#precautions](http://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine/#precautions).

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