

COVID Vaccination FAQs

When am I considered “fully-vaccinated”?

If it has been **at least 2 weeks** since either your 2nd dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or your single dose of Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. It takes this time for your body to build enough protective immunity.

If I have only had one shot so far, can I stop wearing my mask and distancing?

No. If you still need to get your second dose, you are not fully protected. Keep taking all COVID [prevention steps](#) to protect yourself and others until you are fully-vaccinated.

How should I expect to feel after I get vaccinated?

The most common side effects are pain, redness and swelling in the arm where you got the injection. You may also experience tiredness, muscle and body aches, chills, fever, nausea and headache. All symptoms should go away within a few days. *If they do not go away, or symptoms worsen, or you think you are having a severe allergic reaction, call your doctor or 911 right away.*

Can I take pain-relieving medications before or after I get my shot?

It is not recommended you take over-the-counter medicine, such as ibuprofen, aspirin, or acetaminophen, **before** vaccination for the purpose of trying to prevent vaccine-related side effects. It is not known how these medications may affect how well the vaccine works. However, if you take these medications regularly for other reasons, you should keep taking them before you get vaccinated. **After** your shot, you can take these medications to relieve post-vaccination side effects **if** you have no other medical reasons that prevent you from taking these medications normally. If you have questions about medications that you are taking, talk to your doctor or your vaccination provider.

What is ok for “fully-vaccinated” people to do?

- Visit other fully-vaccinated people indoors without masks or physical distancing
- Visit indoors with unvaccinated people from a single household without masks or physical distancing, *if* the unvaccinated people are at low risk for severe disease
- Skip quarantining and testing if you're exposed to someone who has COVID-19 but are asymptomatic (BUT you should still monitor for symptoms for 14 days)

When do I still need to wear a mask and practice physical distancing?

- Around those who are unvaccinated and at increased risk for severe COVID-19
- When visiting unvaccinated people who are from multiple households
- Any time you are in public

What other things should I continue to do after being vaccinated?

- Avoid medium- and large-sized crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated public spaces
- Wash your hands frequently
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you develop any [symptoms that could be COVID](#)
- Avoid out-of-state and out-of-country travel unless absolutely necessary

Which vaccine should I get?

Our public health leaders say **the best vaccine is the one you can get the soonest**. All three vaccines are safe and have been shown to be highly effective at preventing symptomatic illness, hospitalization and death.

Once I'm fully-vaccinated, should I continue to get tested regularly?

You don't have to get tested for COVID unless you develop [symptoms that could be COVID](#).

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>