



March 16, 2021

The COVID-19 Vaccine

All Ohioans eligible on March 29!

What is the COVID vaccine and what does it do?

The COVID-19 vaccine is medicine delivered in a shot (or a series of two shots) that will protect you from getting very sick or dying from COVID. About 80% of people who get COVID have mild symptoms—like a headache, fever, cough, chills, or loss of sense of taste or smell that lasts a few days and people recover at home. Yet COVID also caused serious illness requiring hospitalization for millions and killed over 500,000 people in the United States.

How do the vaccines work?

Three companies developed shots and each one works differently. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued emergency use authorization (EUA) for the three vaccines below.

- The Moderna vaccine has a first shot and another shot 28 days later. You are fully protected 14 days after your last shot.
- The Pfizer vaccine has a first shot and another shot 21 days later. You are fully protected 14 days after the last shot.
- The Johnson and Johnson has a one-dose shot. You are fully protected 14 days later.

Vaccines save lives. It could be yours or someone you love.

Are the vaccines safe even though they have been developed so quickly?

Yes. The vaccines went through the same process as all vaccines do to guarantee their safety. As of mid-March, over 100 million doses of vaccines have been given in America and there have been no widespread serious illnesses or reactions to date.

How much do the vaccines cost?

The vaccines have no cost to you, whether you have insurance or not. If you have insurance, they will be billed for it.

Vaccines are no cost to you.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

As normal with most shots, you may feel a bit of discomfort or pain in your arm. Many people, especially after the second vaccine, feel sick for a day or two—which is a sign the vaccine is working. Some people feel very sick and run a high fever for a brief time.

You might feel tired, or have a headache, fever, chills, or nausea. You might want to plan to be under the weather for a day or two after the last vaccine, but people tend to feel better quickly after that.

If you are sick for several days or your arm still hurts after 24 hours, contact your doctor.

What are some benefits of getting vaccinated?

It prevents you from getting sick or becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID. It also can prevent you from spreading COVID to others. You won't need to quarantine or isolate

yourself if you are exposed to someone who has COVID and has no symptoms. According to the CDC, once you are fully vaccinated, it's safe to visit other fully vaccinated people or visit unvaccinated people from one household if they are at low risk for severe COVID without masks and social distancing.

Getting people vaccinated is the best opportunity our country has to protect everyone from COVID and help our country return to normal. It helps kids get back to school and businesses return to full capacity.

If I had COVID, do I still need a vaccine?

Yes. Experts don't yet know how long you are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID. We also know that vaccines provide the best protection against severe COVID and death.

If you had the virus, you still should get the vaccine.

Will I still need to wear a mask and practice social distancing after I get the vaccine?

In most cases, yes. Ohio continues to have a statewide mask mandate. It will take months to get everyone who wants vaccinated to get vaccinated, so it's safest to continue wearing masks and practicing social distancing when in public or with people from several different households. It's also safest to avoid medium and large size crowds, wash your hands frequently and practice good hygiene. As more and more Americans get vaccinated, masks and social distancing will eventually no longer be necessary.

When will I be eligible for the vaccine and how do I schedule an appointment? Where do I go to get my vaccine?

As of **March 16**, Ohioans over 50 and people working in certain professions, as well as people with certain health conditions are eligible to schedule vaccines. Eligibility is expanded on the following dates:

- **Friday, March 19:** all Ohioans 40 and over, or who have medical conditions such as heart disease, obesity, and cancer.
- **Monday, March 29:** all Ohioans 16 and older.

Check out Ohio's Get the Shot website!

Ohio has a scheduling site at <https://gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov/>. You answer a few questions to confirm your eligibility. If you are eligible the website connects you to places near you where you can make an appointment. People can get vaccines at health departments, community health centers, places like Kroger, CVS, and Walgreens, mass vaccination sites, and at special vaccine drives at community centers, local churches, and other places. It can be a little challenging and take some time to find an appointment, but don't give up!

All information from this flyer has come directly from public health agencies, including the Center for Disease Control and the Ohio Department of Health.

More questions? Ask someone at the DV program or call the Ohio Department of Health COVID call center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

