

COVID-19 VACCINES: Key Facts

FACT: COVID-19 Vaccines Are Safe

All authorized COVID-19 vaccines meet FDA's rigorous standards for safety and effectiveness. Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines. These vaccines will continue undergoing the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history to make sure that they are safe.

[Learn more.](#)



FACT: COVID-19 Vaccines Cannot Make You Sick With COVID-19

None of the vaccines being used or tested in the United States contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means that they cannot make you sick with COVID-19

FACT: COVID-19 Vaccines Are Effective

All FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines prevent nearly 100% of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 Virus Variants and Vaccines

Scientists are studying different forms, or variants, of the virus that causes COVID-19 to see if the vaccines will work against them. Current data suggest that COVID-19 vaccines authorized and recommended for use in the United States offer protection against most variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including illness caused by the new variants. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines Are Free

The federal government is providing the vaccine free of charge to all people living in the U.S. NOTE: If you have insurance, vaccination providers can bill your health insurance for the administration fee. However, providers cannot charge you the balance of the bill

Once You're Fully Vaccinated

According to CDC, if you're fully vaccinated (2 weeks after your final dose), you DO NOT have to wear a mask indoors or outdoors in public (except in health care settings), and you DO NOT have to keep your distance from other people. Until you're fully vaccinated, you should continue to:

- Wear a mask when inside public places.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Keep at least 6 feet part from people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
- Avoid crowds.
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces

Vaccinated and unvaccinated people must still follow federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial laws, rules, and regulations. That includes public transportation, airport/airplane, local business, and workplace guidance. Also, if you have a medical condition or you take medicines that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected from COVID19 even if you're fully vaccinated. Talk to your health care provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking precautions.