

# COVID-19 Vaccine



## How do vaccines work?

Vaccines help your body recognize and fight bacteria or viruses so you don't get as sick. COVID-19 vaccines use either messenger RNA (mRNA) or a safe version of a different virus (a vector) to deliver important instructions on how to fight the virus. Our cells use these instructions to create a specific protein needed to build immunity.

## Why should I get the vaccine?

- ✓ You can protect your health so you can be there for your loved ones.
- ✓ You can do your part and help us get closer to community immunity.
- ✓ COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

## COVID-19 vaccines are

### Safe

- All the COVID-19 vaccines that are being used have gone through the same safety tests and meet the same standards as all other vaccines. Their effects are being heavily scrutinized, with their use adjusted accordingly. In fact, in an abundance of caution, one version was pulled back for further study after just six people out of 700 million who were administered the vaccine reported severe side effects.
- Millions of people have already gotten the COVID-19 vaccine safely.
- Very few (less than 0.005%) vaccinated people have severe side effects. You are more likely to have serious long-term effects if you get COVID-19 and are not vaccinated.

### and

### Effective

- COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- Medical experts authorized the vaccines because they give us the protection against COVID-19 we need.

## Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available.

- Vaccines help your immune system be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Wearing masks, physical distancing, and other public health tools help reduce your risk of being exposed to the virus and spreading it to others.
- If you have been fully vaccinated, you should follow different, specific [quarantine](#) and [activity guidelines](#) to protect yourself and others when you are in public or around unvaccinated people who are at an increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
- The combination of COVID-19 vaccination and following good public health behaviors will offer the best protection for all from COVID-19.



Wear your mask



Get tested if you have symptoms



Stay 6 feet apart



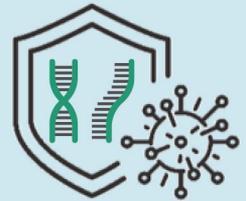
## How were such effective vaccines developed so quickly?

- Earlier research on mRNA technology, coronavirus cousins like SARS and MERS, and past epidemics gave the COVID-19 vaccine development process a strong head start.
- The investment in research and the cooperation among medical professionals from around the world was unprecedented.
- The clinical trial process was streamlined by including many more research participants and medical experts than required, so medical experts could tell if the vaccine is safe and effective as quickly as possible.

## Facts About COVID-19 Vaccines

### None of the authorized vaccines can cause COVID-19.

- They do not have the live virus that causes COVID-19 so they cannot give you COVID-19.



### They do not change or interact with your DNA in any way.

- mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where DNA is kept. The cell gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using its instructions.
- The genetic material delivered by the viral vector does not integrate into a person's DNA.

## Where can I get vaccinated?

Check out DHS's website or call 1-844-684-1064 to learn where you can get vaccinated when you are eligible: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-get.htm>

## Remember:

- **The vaccine is free!**
- Side effects are normal. They are a good sign the vaccine is working and building up your immune system.
- Make sure you know your **next steps** after vaccination.
- If you are getting a two-dose vaccine, like Pfizer or Moderna, mark your calendar right away so you know when to go back to get your second dose.

