

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

Vaccines have the potential to control and eliminate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. These vaccines will only work if enough people roll up their sleeves to get vaccinated. If you have questions about vaccine safety, effectiveness or availability, Sanford OccMed has the answers.

Which vaccines are available?

The Pfizer vaccine received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This vaccine requires two doses given 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine also received EUA. This vaccine requires two doses given 28 days apart.

You will schedule your second dose when you receive the first dose. The second dose must be from the same manufacturer as your first dose.

What is an Emergency Use Authorization?

During a public health emergency, the FDA can use its authority to allow the use of unapproved medical products when certain conditions are met. The pandemic meets these conditions. Declaring an EUA allows a vaccine to be distributed before it gets full approval. EUA is only granted if research data shows the product's safety and effectiveness on patients enrolled in Phase 3 clinical trials. The data is reviewed by independent committees at the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

How many doses will be available?

Each state will be allocated weekly shipments of the vaccines. The amount of doses each state gets depends on its population.

Will there be enough vaccine doses available right away for priority populations?

Initial supplies are limited. Front-line health care workers and long-term care residents in the priority phase 1A group will get the vaccine first. With the expected weekly shipments, we anticipate getting to all the priority phase 1A populations within the first several weeks.

When can companies expect the vaccine and how will it be given?

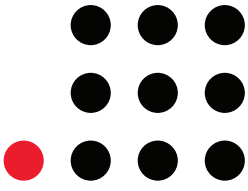
This will depend on your state. Unlike the flu shot, some of your employees will be given the vaccine first if they are front-line essential workers. Employees with high-risk conditions may be called by their medical provider to get the vaccine next. The remaining employees may then get the vaccine at an on-site event like a flu shot clinic. It is unclear if the state or individual health care entities like Sanford OccMed will be administering these vaccines.

How did Sanford Health decide to recommend these vaccines?

Sanford Health infectious disease and immunization experts reviewed the Phase 3 clinical trial data with care and concluded these vaccines are safe and effective.

How many shots of the COVID-19 vaccine are needed?

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines require two shots.



What happens if I don't get the second dose of the vaccine?

If you do not receive the second dose, you may not develop full immunity. You need the second dose to achieve 95% efficacy.

Can I still contract COVID-19 between getting the two doses of a vaccine?

Yes. The first dose starts to build protection. A second dose is needed to achieve 95% efficacy. You must continue to wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance.

Is the vaccine safe and effective?

The FDA and CDC would not grant EUA to a vaccine unless they were convinced it was safe.

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are shown to be 95% effective against COVID-19.

Why is this COVID-19 vaccine able to be approved so quickly compared to other vaccines?

There are several reasons for this:

- Scientists had completed years of research on a coronavirus vaccine for SARS-CoV-1 (2002) and MERS-CoV (2011)
- Rapid discovery of the SARS-CoV-2 viral genome sequence allowed rapid creation of vaccines with minor changes to the previous coronavirus vaccine
- All three phases of clinical trials were completed with results reviewed live by the FDA
- Vaccines were manufactured before approval, allowing quick shipment once they received EUA
- All these steps were done at the same time as much as possible to allow for quick vaccine availability

What are the FDA and CDC doing to track the safety of the vaccine?

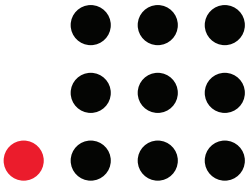
The safety of the vaccine will be monitored through VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) as with all other vaccines. A new v-safe program has been developed by the FDA and CDC to monitor the vaccine through a smartphone-based tool. You'll learn more about how to enroll in v-safe once you get your vaccine.

If I get the vaccine, do I still have to wear a mask?

Yes, until we learn more about the protection the vaccine provides, you will need to continue to mask, socially distance and wash your hands frequently. The CDC may change this recommendation in the future.

How much will the vaccine cost?

The COVID-19 vaccines will be distributed free of charge. Patients may be charged an administration fee.



Are there any side effects from the vaccine?

Side effects are a sign that the vaccine is working. During the clinical trials, vaccine recipients experienced pain at the injection site, fatigue, fever, chills, body aches or headaches after the first and second dose. These symptoms were mild to moderate and lasted 24 to 48 hours.

If you develop soreness, warmth, redness, swelling or tenderness at the injection site, apply a cold compress to the area and take an over-the-counter pain reliever (Tylenol, Advil) if needed.

Should I go to work if I develop side effects from the vaccine?

You should stay home if you develop a fever at any time. If your symptoms from the vaccine last longer than 48 hours, call your primary care physician.

I had COVID-19 and recovered. Will I still need to get the vaccine?

Yes, there is the possibility of reinfection and we highly encourage you to get the vaccine. However, because the infection may provide you immunity for the first 90 days after the infection, you may choose to wait the 90 days to get your vaccine.

If I received another vaccine recently, do I need to wait to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, if you recently received a vaccine, you need to wait 14 days from the date you received the other vaccine.

If I have received COVID-19 antibody therapy, do I need to wait before getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, you must wait 90 days from the date you received the antibody therapy to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive on a COVID-19 viral test?

No, the current vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests. You may test positive on COVID-19 antibody tests.

Can I get the flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time?

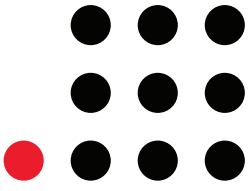
We are not sure it is safe at this time, so we do not recommend it.

What is the youngest age people can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Pfizer vaccine is only for those ages 16 or older. The Moderna vaccine is for those ages 18 or older.

Can pregnant or breastfeeding women get the vaccine?

At this time, there is no data on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant or breastfeeding women. You should discuss this with your health care provider.



Is the vaccine safe for those with autoimmune conditions?

We do not know for sure at this time. However, because these individuals are at higher risk for COVID-19 infection, the vaccine will likely be recommended for them.

Are there any high-risk medical conditions that may prevent a person from receiving the vaccine?

See your primary care provider before getting the vaccine if you have:

- An acute illness or fever
- A bleeding disorder or are on anticoagulants
- A compromised immune system from a disease or medication
- A history of severe allergic reactions to another vaccine or injectable medicine