

INFORMATION ON COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CAREGIVERS OF OLDER ADULTS



If you're a caregiver for an older adult, then it's important that you know some [information about COVID-19 vaccines](#) to help inform the older adult you care for. Here are some facts that can help your conversations about COVID-19 vaccine with the older adults in your life.

Vaccines Are Effective

- All FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines prevent nearly 100% of hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require two shots to get the most protection. The timing between your first and second shot depends on which vaccine you received:
 - You should get your second Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine shot no earlier than 21 days after your first shot.
 - You should get your second Moderna vaccine shot no earlier than 28 days after your first shot.
- You should get your second shot as close to the recommended time interval as possible. For full protection, your two shots need to be from the same vaccine manufacturer. For example, if your first shot was the Moderna vaccine, your second shot should also be the Moderna vaccine.
- Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine only requires one shot.

Vaccine Safety and Side Effects

- In medical studies, scientists evaluated the available COVID-19 vaccines in tens of thousands of volunteers. The vaccines meet FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality.
- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines will undergo the most [careful safety monitoring](#) in U.S. history.
- Like other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects such as pain and swelling in the arm you received the shot, fever, chills, feeling tired, and headaches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. These are normal signs that your body is creating an immune response.
- A small number of people have had a severe allergic reaction called "anaphylaxis" after being vaccinated, but this is extremely rare. If this occurs, vaccine providers have medicines available to effectively and immediately treat the reaction.



For more information, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

- After you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you will be asked to stay for at least 15 minutes so you can be observed for anaphylaxis.

Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

- Vaccines are now here, and everyone age 12 and older can get them. [Sign up](#) to get a vaccine as soon as you can.
- You have three easy ways to find vaccines near you:
 - Go to [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
 - Text your ZIP code to 438829
 - Call 1-800-232-0233
- Receiving the vaccine will not affect your immigration status.
 - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has clarified that vaccines are available to all individuals regardless of their [immigration status](#).
 - Enforcement activities (investigations) will not be conducted at or near vaccine distribution sites, hospitals, or clinics.
 - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has specified that it will not consider testing, treatment, or preventive care, including vaccines, related to COVID-19 as part of a [public charge](#) inadmissibility determination.
- People can face many barriers to getting a COVID-19 vaccine. For example, they may need help scheduling appointments on the Internet. They may also need a ride to their vaccine appointment or a family member to accompany them.

Once You're Fully Vaccinated

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



- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when in indoor public places. If you care for someone who is hearing impaired, consider wearing a mask with a clear panel to make it easier for the person to read your lips.
- Keep at least 6 feet part from people who don't live with you and who may not be vaccinated.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 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 COVID-19 even if you're fully vaccinated. Talk to your health care provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking precautions.