

COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet



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What you should know

COVID-19 has taken its toll, but the good news is that the vaccines are 94-95% effective for those who are at highest risk of developing severe illness, including seniors and those with underlying health conditions like diabetes, heart conditions and obesity.

Due to limited supply, COVID-19 vaccine will be phased in to those most at risk based on availability. The vaccine will be available more widely as supply becomes available based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices ([ACIP](#)) and the Indiana Department of Health's panel of medical and public health experts. The state Department of Health will continue to update its [website](#) as vaccine recommendations and supplies change.

The vaccine will help us get back to normal life by preventing infections, decreasing outbreaks and lowering your chance of serious illness. [Safety](#) has been a top priority of the vaccine's development. It has become available so quickly because it builds on work already completed over the last decade to prevent similar viruses. Every vaccine must pass several tests to make sure it is safe and effective before it is released. The vaccine will be free, regardless of whether you have insurance.

The Moderna vaccine is an mRNA vaccine has been authorized by the [FDA](#). These vaccines contain material from the virus that causes COVID-19 that gives our cells instructions for how to make a harmless protein that is unique to the virus. Two doses of the vaccines are needed to get full protection.

Sometimes after vaccination, the process of building immunity can cause symptoms, such as fever or muscle aches. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity.

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

About the trials

Thousands of people were included in studies of the Pfizer Moderna vaccines. Researchers determine the safety of the vaccine and how well it works by measuring how the study participants respond. They also watch for side effects. The vaccine has gone through multiple phases of testing to make sure it is safe. After a vaccine is authorized or approved by the FDA for use, many vaccine safety monitoring systems watch for adverse events (possible side effects). The vaccine will be tracked for years to study its effects.

About the approval process

After all phases of testing are complete, the FDA reviews the research and decides whether to authorize the COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. The FDA looks at how well the vaccine works, or its effectiveness, and at reported side effects. After the FDA authorizes use of a vaccine, it is made available only to the groups for which it is approved. Researchers, including the CDC, continue to study the vaccine under real-world conditions and continue to check for safety.

Fast Facts

- The vaccine was found to be 94-95% effective in study participants who received the vaccine, including seniors
- People who get COVID-19 after the vaccine have less severe cases
- The vaccine is free
- You must get a second dose of the same vaccine (ex. 2nd [Moderna](#) in 28 days)
- Most people are immune to COVID-19 a week or two after the second dose
- Moderna [fact sheet](#)
- Find out more at [ourshot.in.gov](#)