



## Frequently Asked Questions about the COVID-19 Vaccine

### Q: Who will get a COVID-19 Vaccine?

A: Every resident in the U.S. will eventually be eligible for COVID-19 immunization. Due to limited initial supply, eligibility will be determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and will occur in Phases according to risk.

### Q: Who will receive the vaccine first?

A: Because initial vaccine supplies will be limited, the vaccine will be provided to defined groups in Phases. The first phase (Phase 1) will have three components (a, b, c). Phase 1a will be the first group of individuals vaccinated, which includes healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents.

Healthcare Personnel is defined as those working in the following healthcare settings:

- Hospitals
- Long Term Care Facilities
- Homes for adults with developmental disabilities
- Outpatient
- Home Health Care
- Pharmacies
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Laboratories
- Public Health

Healthcare workers can include physicians, nurses, emergency medical personnel, dental professionals and students, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, hospital volunteers, administrative and support staff. EMS workers includes those that provide pre-hospital emergency care in the normal course of their work or their volunteer work. Additional federal guidance for prioritization for vaccination beyond Phase 1a is anticipated in the coming weeks.

Phase 1 b: People aged 75 years and older, frontline essential workers such as fire fighters, police officers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, United States Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and teachers, support staff, and daycare workers.

Phase 1c is anticipated to include people aged 65—74 years because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19; People aged 18—64 years with underlying medical conditions which increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19; and other essential workers, such as people who work in transportation and logistics, food service, housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, public safety, and public health.. Subsequent priority phases are not official until the CDC adopts the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) recommendation. More information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6949e1.htm>.

**Q: How many shots of COVID-19 vaccine will be needed?**

**A:** The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in the United States requires two shots to be effective. The timeline for receiving the second dose of the vaccine will vary based on the manufacturer. Appointments for the second dose will be scheduled when the first dose is received.

- Pfizer vaccine - 21 days after the first vaccination
- Moderna vaccine - 28 days after the first vaccination

**Q: What can I do to protect myself from getting COVID-19 until I am eligible to get the vaccine?**

**A:** Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay six feet away from others, avoid crowds, sanitize surfaces, and wash your hands often.

**Q: Do I need to wear a mask when I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** Yes. CDC recommends that during the pandemic people wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth when in contact with others outside your household, when in healthcare facilities, and when receiving any vaccine, including a COVID-19 vaccine. Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to remove a mask without assistance should not wear a mask. For more information, review these [considerations for wearing masks](#).

**Q: Who SHOULDN'T be vaccinated?**

**A:** At this time, the COVID-19 vaccine is not recommended for children up to 16 years of age. Individuals that have previously experienced a severe allergic reaction, (e.g., anaphylaxis), to a previous vaccine or therapeutic injection should discuss vaccination with their healthcare provider first. The vaccine will not be given if patient has a fever of 100.4 or above and/or is experiencing any other Covid-like symptoms such as chills, cough, shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, or sore throat. If pregnant people are part of a group that is recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., healthcare personnel), they may choose to be vaccinated. A conversation between the patient and their clinical team may assist with decisions regarding the use of vaccines approved under EUA for the prevention of COVID-19. While a conversation with a healthcare provider may be helpful, it is not required prior to vaccination.

**Q: Who is paying for the vaccine?**

**A:** Vaccine doses will be provided by the federal government and will be available at no cost. However, vaccination providers will be able to charge an administration fee for giving the shot to someone. Insurance billing will depend upon the provider's policy. YCCHS will bill insurance for vaccine administration fees. Those without insurance will not be billed the administrative fee. Those with insurance are asked to bring your insurance card when receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q: I have already had COVID-19 and recovered; do I still need to get the COVID-19 vaccine when it's available?**

**A:** Yes, immunization is still recommended for those who have had COVID-19.

**Q: Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received 2 doses of vaccine?**

**A:** Yes. It is important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to us to help stop this pandemic, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations for [how to protect yourself and others](#) will offer the best protection from getting and spreading COVID-19.

**Q: When can I stop wearing a mask and avoiding close contact with others after I have been vaccinated?**

**A:** Individuals should continue to wear a mask and follow other prevention recommendations after being vaccinated. There is not enough information currently available to say if or when CDC and local jurisdictions will stop recommending that people [wear masks](#) and [avoid close contact with others](#) to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, will also affect this decision.

**Q: Will the COVID-19 Vaccine give me COVID-19?**

**A:** None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently in development in the United States use the live virus that causes COVID-19. There are several different types of vaccines in development. However, the goal for each of them is to teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. Sometimes this process can cause symptoms, such as fever. These symptoms are normal and are a sign that the body is building immunity. Learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work.

It typically takes a few weeks for the body to build immunity after vaccination. That means it's possible a person could be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 just before or just after vaccination and get sick. This is because the vaccine has not had enough time to provide protection.

**Q: Will the COVID-19 Vaccination help keep you from getting COVID-19?**

**A:** COVID-19 vaccines are being carefully evaluated in clinical trials and will be authorized or approved only if they make it substantially less likely you'll get COVID-19.

Based on what we know about vaccines for other diseases, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine may help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Experts continue to conduct more studies about the effect of COVID-19 vaccination on severity of illness from COVID-19, as well as its ability to keep people from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19.

**Q: Since two shots will be required for some vaccine manufacturers, can I get my second shot from a different manufacturer or should my second shot from the same manufacturer?**

**A:** According to the Emergency Use Authorization with Pfizer and Moderna, “If you receive one dose of the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, you should receive a second dose of the same vaccine 1 month later to complete the vaccination series. There is no data available on the interchangeability of the vaccines for the first and second dose; the efficacy rates of the vaccines are based on using the same vaccine for the first and second doses.

**Q: What are the possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** According to CDC side effects can include:

- Site injection soreness, pain, or swelling
- Body aches
- Fever
- Flu-like symptoms
- Headaches

Visit the CDC website to learn more about the possible side effects and what you can do to lessen or alleviate them at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

**Q: When can I get the vaccine, or how do I know if I am in a priority group that will receive the vaccine sooner than the general public?**

**A:** As the vaccine begins to rollout, it will be in limited quantities. The CDC guidance recommends vaccinating priority populations before the general public in a phased approach. Phase 1A will be first eligible, followed by 1B, then Phase 2, and then the vaccine will be available to the general public. Below is a list of each priority group. Please visit the CDC website for more information about how the CDC is making COVID19 vaccine recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations-process.html>

**Phase 1A:**

- healthcare practitioners and technical occupations
- Healthcare support occupations
- Home health and personal care aids
- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- Emergency medical responders
- School nurses (Nurses, Assistant Nurses and Health Office Aids)

**Phase 1B:**

People aged 75 years and older, frontline essential workers such as fire fighters, police officers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, United States Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and teachers, support staff, and daycare workers.

**Phase 1C:**

People aged 65—74 years because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19; People aged 18—64 years with underlying medical conditions which increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19; and other essential workers, such as

people who work in transportation and logistics, food service, housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, public safety, and public health.

**Phase 2:**

Any remaining Phase 1 Populations, Additional High-Risk Critical Populations, General population.

**Phase 3:**

Any remaining Phase 1 or 2 Populations, General Population.

**Q: The vaccine was created so quickly, is it safe for me to take?**

**A:** mRNA vaccines are being held to the same rigorous safety and effectiveness as all other types of vaccines in the United States. The only COVID19 vaccines the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will make available for use in the United States (by approval or emergency use authorization) are those that meet these standards. Please visit the CDC website for more information about mRNA vaccines at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>

**Q: How do I report it if I have a problem or bad reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccine?**

**A:** The CDC and FDA encourage the public to report possible side effects (called adverse events) to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). This national system collects these data to look for adverse events that are unexpected, appear to happen more often than expected, or have unusual patterns of occurrence. Learn about the difference between a vaccine side effect and an adverse event. Reports to VAERS help CDC monitor the safety of vaccines. Safety is a top priority.

Healthcare providers will be required to report certain adverse events following vaccination to VAERS. Healthcare providers also have to adhere to any revised safety reporting requirements according to FDA's conditions of authorized use throughout the duration of any Emergency Use Authorization; these requirements would be posted on FDA's website.

CDC is also implementing a new smartphone-based tool called **v-safe** to check-in on people's health after they receive a COVID-19 vaccine. When you receive your vaccine, you should also receive a **v-safe** information sheet telling you how to enroll in **v-safe**. If you enroll, you will receive regular text messages directing you to surveys where you can report any problems or adverse reactions you have after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q: Who has the CDC worked with to plan for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines? Private partners and federal agencies:** CDC has also worked with private partners, such as chain and networks of independent pharmacies, and other federal agencies (e.g., the Indian Health Service) on plans to more widely distribute COVID-19 vaccines. For example, CDC is working with pharmacies to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccination services for residents in long-term care settings, including skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities where most individuals are over 65 years of age.

**Q: I live part-time in Arizona or live out-of-state, will I still be able to get a vaccine in Yavapai County?**

**A:** Your place of permanent residence does not factor into whether someone can get vaccinated in Arizona. However, it is important to note that for maximum effectiveness, two doses of Moderna vaccine are required, with the second dose scheduled 21-28 days from initial dose.

## **8 Things to Know about Vaccine Planning**

1. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is top priority
2. Many vaccines are being developed and tested, but some might be ready before others – CDC is planning for many possibilities
3. At least at first, COVID-19 vaccines might be used under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
4. There will be limited supply of COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020, but supply will continually increase in the weeks and months that follow
5. Because of limited supply, some groups will be recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine first.
6. At first, vaccines may not be recommended for children.
7. Cost will not be an obstacle for getting vaccinated against COVID-19.
8. COVID-19 vaccine planning is being updated as new information becomes available. Visit the CDC website for more information about Vaccine Planning and other useful links and information.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/8-things.html>