

The federal government has been working to make COVID-19 vaccines available as soon as possible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been working closely with partners at all levels, including healthcare associations, on flexible COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines and scenarios.

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 vaccination:

1. When will a COVID-19 vaccine be available in the United States?

The goal is to deliver safe and effective vaccines, with the first supply becoming available before the end of 2020. When a vaccine is authorized or approved in the United States, there may not be enough doses available for all adults. Supplies will increase over time, and all adults should be able to get vaccinated later in 2021. However, a COVID-19 vaccine may not be available for young children until more studies are completed.

2. Will there be enough vaccine for everyone?

No, not at first. When the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorizes or approves the use of COVID-19 vaccines in the United States, there may be a limited supply. This means that not everyone will be able to be vaccinated right away. The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as large quantities are available. The vaccine will be available at doctor's offices, pharmacies, hospitals, and federally qualified health centers.

3. What can I do to help protect myself from getting COVID-19 before I can receive the vaccine?

You should continue to cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay 6 feet away from others, avoid crowds, and wash your hands often.

4. Who will get vaccinated first?

Because the supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the United States is expected to be limited at first, the CDC recommends that initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine be allocated to **healthcare personnel** and **long-term care facility residents**.

The recommendations were made with these goals in mind:

- Decrease death and serious disease as much as possible.
- Preserve functioning of society.
- Reduce the burden COVID-19 is having on people already facing disparities.
- As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand.
- The goal is for everyone to be able to easily get a COVID-19 vaccination as soon as large quantities of vaccine are available.

5. What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, discuss your vaccination options with your healthcare provider.

6. What COVID-19 vaccine is FHN offering?

FHN is offering the **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** to prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by SARS-CoV-2.

7. What is the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine?

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is an unapproved vaccine that may prevent COVID-19. There is no FDA-approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19. **The FDA has authorized the emergency use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 18 years of age and older under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).**

8. Who should get the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine?

FDA has authorized the emergency use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in individuals 18 years of age and older.

9. Who should NOT get the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine?

You should not get the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine if you:

- Had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine
- Had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine

10. How is the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine given?

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine will be given to you as an **injection into the muscle**. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine series **requires 2 doses given 1 month apart**. If you receive one dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, you should receive a second dose of the same vaccine 1 month later to complete the vaccination series.

11. Will the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine give me COVID-19?

No. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine does not contain SARS-CoV-2 and cannot give you COVID-19.

12. What are the benefits of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine?

In an ongoing clinical trial, **the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to prevent COVID-19 following 2 doses given 1 month apart**. The duration of protection against COVID-19 is currently unknown.

13. What are the risks of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine?

Side effects of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine include:

- Injection site reactions: pain, tenderness/swelling of lymph nodes in the same arm of the injection, swelling, redness
- General side effects: fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills, nausea and vomiting, fever

There is a chance that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine could cause a severe allergic reaction. This usually occurs within a few minutes to one hour after getting a dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Your vaccination provider may ask you to stay at the location you received your vaccine for monitoring.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include:

- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of face and throat
- Increased heartbeat
- Rash all over your body
- Dizziness and weakness

These may not be all the possible side effects of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Serious and unexpected side effects may occur. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is still being studied in clinical trials.

14. What should I do if I experience side effects?

If you experience a severe allergic reaction, call 9-1-1, or go to the nearest hospital. Call your vaccination provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away. Report vaccine side effects to **FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)**. The VAERS toll-free number is 1-800-822-7967.

15. Do I need to wear a mask when I receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. The CDC recommends wearing 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.

16. Who is paying for the COVID-19 vaccine?

There are no out of pocket costs to FHN patients. Vaccine doses purchased with United States taxpayer dollars will be given to Americans at no cost.

17. What percentage of the population needs to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19?

Experts do not know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. **Herd immunity** is a term used to describe when enough people have protection, either from previous infection or vaccination, that it is unlikely a virus or bacteria can spread and cause disease. As a result, everyone within the community is protected even if some people don't have any protection themselves. The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease.

18. Do I need to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others if I have received the vaccine?

Yes. While experts learn more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide, it is important to continue using **all the tools** available to us to help stop the spread of COVID-19 (covering your mouth and nose with a mask, washing hands often, and staying at least 6 feet away from others). Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before changing recommendations to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Factors including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities will also affect this decision.

19. Why would a vaccine be needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 if we can social distance and wear masks?

Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools available. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. Other steps, like covering your mouth and nose with a mask and staying at least 6 feet away from others, help reduce your chance of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Together, COVID-19 vaccination and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

20. If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get vaccinated?

There is not enough information currently available to say if or for how long after infection someone is protected from getting COVID-19 again. Early evidence suggests natural immunity from COVID-19 may not last very long, but more studies are needed to better understand this. The CDC cannot comment on whether people who had COVID-19 should get a COVID-19 vaccine.

21. What is the difference between Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19?

Flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses, while COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus, called SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 seems to spread more easily than flu, and causes more serious illness in some people. It can take longer before people to show symptoms, and people can be contagious for longer. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms. Testing may be needed to confirm a diagnosis. FHN can test and vaccinate for flu. Call to schedule an appointment for your flu shot today!

22. KEEP YOUR VACCINATION CARD! When you receive your first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at FHN, you will get a vaccination card to show you when to return for your second dose. ***Remember to bring your card when you return.***

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine#additional>

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