

## COVID-19 Vaccines Frequently Asked Questions

The following frequently asked questions, or FAQs, are intended to help answer some common questions you may have about COVID-19 vaccines.

### **Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?**

Vaccine approval is driven by science. The FDA, CDC, and independent advisors review all vaccine safety and effectiveness data before any vaccine is approved or allowed for distribution. COVID-19 vaccines are going through all the same steps in the trial phases that all vaccines go through to get the full FDA vaccine license and approval. (WI DHS)

### **How many doses is the vaccine and how is it administered?**

The Pfizer vaccine is an IM (intramuscular) injection given in two doses spaced 21 days apart. The Moderna vaccine is an IM (intramuscular) injection given in two doses spaced 28 days apart. People will need to receive 2 doses of the same vaccine. Persons who do not receive a 2nd dose within the appropriate time window would need to restart their vaccine series and would not be considered immune or protected from SARS CoV-2 infection.

### **What side effects should I expect and how long will they last?**

Most people do not have serious problems after being vaccinated. However, your arm may be sore, red, or warm to the touch. These symptoms usually go away on their own within a week. Some people report getting a muscle aches, headache or fever after getting a vaccine. These side effects are a sign that your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. It is working and building up protection to disease. (CDC)

### **When can I get the vaccine?**

The decision for which groups will receive vaccines first are made at the federal level by the FDA and the CDC. The vaccines will be given in “phases” that focus on specific groups of people. The first phase of vaccine distribution will focus on frontline healthcare workers who provide direct patient service/care and are at the highest risk of exposure. We do not know how long the first phase will last.

### **What can I do to stay healthy until the vaccine is available?**

- Don't gather in the presence of those outside your immediate household. If you must, wear a mask and stay at least six feet apart.
- Wear a mask when in public, even in outdoor locations.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, scrubbing thoroughly and rinsing completely.
- If you have symptoms, stay home.

### **Can I get on a waiting list for the vaccine?**

There are no waiting lists for vaccines. We want to be able to get these vaccines to our patients as quickly as possible when it becomes available.

**Can I get updates by calling my healthcare provider?**

We understand people are eager to learn more about vaccines, but we kindly ask that you do not call your healthcare provider or clinic for information about COVID-19 vaccines at this time. This helps reserve our staffed phone lines for patients calling who are experiencing active symptoms or have acute care needs.

**Where can I learn more about the vaccine and how it will be distributed?**

If you are interested in reading more about vaccines, three great sources are the [CDC](#) and the [WI Dept of Health Services](#) or go to: <https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine>