

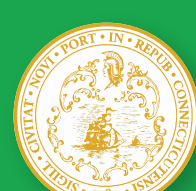
# COVID-19 Vaccines

## Frequently Asked Questions



**New Haven Health Department**  
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### Contents

#### General Questions

- 1 Is the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory?
- 2 Where do I go for a vaccination?
- 3 Is there a difference between the different COVID-19 vaccines?
- 4 Do I get to choose which vaccine I get?
- 5 How do I know when to schedule my second vaccination?
- 6 What if I miss my second shot?
- 7 Can I still get COVID-19 after I have been vaccinated?
- 8 My relative is in a nursing home or the hospital, can I visit them after I get vaccinated?
- 9 Am I going to be required to carry verification that I've been vaccinated?
- 10 Once I'm vaccinated, can I stop wearing a mask and social distancing?

#### Safety Questions

- 11 Since the vaccine is so new, how do you know there will not be long-term health effects from taking it?
- 12 Is it safe to get vaccinated if I have an underlying health condition?
- 13 I've had allergic reactions to other shots, can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?
- 14 Is the COVID-19 vaccination safe for children?
- 15 Does this vaccine cause infertility?
- 16 I have a food allergy, can I get the vaccine?
- 17 I have seasonal allergies, can I get the vaccine?

#### General Questions

- 1 **Is the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory?**  
No. You can choose not to get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 2 **Where do I go for a vaccination?**  
You will be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine in many locations. You may be able to visit your medical provider or a community-based clinic. As the vaccine is made available to the public, more information on locations will be shared.
- 3 **Is there a difference between the different COVID-19 vaccines?**  
There are small differences between the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Both are proven very effective during the clinical trials. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are for people 16 years old and older. Both vaccines require two doses. The two doses of the Pfizer vaccine should be given 21 days apart. The two doses of the Moderna vaccine should be given 28 days apart.
- 4 **Do I get to choose which vaccine I get?**  
In general, only one vaccine may be available through your provider. For questions or concerns about receiving a specific vaccine, we suggest you speak with a medical provider.
- 5 **How do I know when to schedule my second vaccination?**  
When you get your first dose of the vaccine, you will be told when you should return. You should get a reminder card and may receive a reminder text, email, or phone call about your second dose.
- 6 **What if I miss my second shot?**  
We suggest you contact your medical provider about next steps if you miss your second dose.
- 7 **Can I still get COVID-19 after I have been vaccinated?**  
Yes. The vaccine does not guarantee 100% protection from COVID-19. It will take 10-14 days after your second shot to have the most protection. You can spread COVID-19 after you are fully vaccinated. You can also still get COVID-19 after you receive the vaccine, but your symptoms may be less severe and you will not be ill for as long.
- 8 **My relative is in a nursing home or the hospital, can I visit them after I get vaccinated?**  
You should continue to follow guidelines released by the Department of Public Health.
- 9 **Am I going to be required to carry verification that I've been vaccinated?**  
No. Although your provider will make sure that their records reflect you have received vaccine.
- 10 **Once I'm vaccinated, can I stop wearing a mask and social distancing?**  
No. You will still need to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

#### Safety Questions

- 11 **Since the vaccine is so new, how do you know there will not be long-term health effects from taking it?**  
Out of millions of doses administered to date, no long-term adverse effects have been reported. We'll continue to track data, learn and be able to make even more informed decisions about its use and any side effects.
- 12 **Is it safe to get vaccinated if I have an underlying health condition?**  
Yes. People with certain health conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. Therefore, it's important that people with underlying very sick problems like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19. It is recommended that people with these conditions get vaccinated. Individuals who have had prior allergic reactions to injectable medicines should talk with their medical providers before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.
- 13 **I've had allergic reactions to other shots, can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**  
You should talk with a medical provider about what allergies may make it risky for you to get the COVID-19 vaccination. Your doctor will help you decide if it is safe for you to get vaccinated.
- 14 **Is the COVID-19 vaccination safe for children?**  
At this time, COVID-19 vaccines are only for people 16 years of age and older. The research that's been done on the COVID-19 vaccine for ages 16 and up needs to be repeated in children under 16 years old.
- 15 **Does this vaccine cause infertility?**  
No. This is not true. The vaccine is supported by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- 16 **I have a food allergy, can I get the vaccine?**  
Yes. Information about the COVID-19 vaccination and allergies can be found on the CDC's website.
- 17 **I have seasonal allergies, can I get the vaccine?**  
Yes. Information about the COVID-19 vaccination and allergies can be found on the CDC's website.

For more information, visit [covid19.newhavenct.gov](https://covid19.newhavenct.gov) or call 203-946-6999

This information is as of 1/8/2021