

What to expect at your vaccine appointment

Everyone age 5 and older can get a [COVID-19 vaccine in Colorado](#).



BEFORE VACCINATION

Make a plan.

- Ask for paid time off from work. It's [Colorado law](#) that employers have to give workers paid time off to get vaccinated and recover from side effects. Your employer also has to give you paid time off while you take a family member to get vaccinated and care for them while they recover from side effects.
- Plan for side effects. It may feel like you are coming down with something, and side effects may even get in the way of your daily activities. But, side effects should go away in a few days.
- Plan to get your second dose 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna) after your first dose.
- If you get Johnson & Johnson, plan to get a second (booster) dose two months after your first, preferably of either Pfizer or Moderna.
- If you are 12 years of age or older and got Pfizer, or are 18 years of age or older and got Moderna for your first two doses, plan to get a third (booster) dose five months after your second dose. If you are 18 or older, your third dose can be of either vaccine.
- People who are immunocompromised and 12 years of age or older may need up to four doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for full protection. [Learn more about additional doses for immunocompromised people.](#)
- Learn more about the [different types of COVID-19 vaccines and how they work.](#)
- Learn more about the [benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccination.](#)
- Have more questions about the vaccine? [Get the facts here.](#)

WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR VACCINE APPOINTMENT



During your appointment, wear a mask and try to stay six feet away from others while inside and in line.



You might need to fill out and sign a vaccine screening form. This form helps your provider determine if there is any reason why you should not get the vaccine today. See an example pre-vaccination screening form: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)



Although you may be asked for it, you do not need to have a government-issued ID like a driver's license or passport or health insurance to get the vaccine. You also are not required to provide your social security number, even if you are asked. It's OK to leave those fields blank on your paperwork



15-30mins.

Everyone who gets the vaccine should stay on-site for 15-30 minutes. This extra waiting time is to make sure you do not have an immediate or severe allergic reaction. [Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and rare severe allergic reactions.](#)



You should receive a fact sheet that tells you more about the COVID-19 vaccine you are being offered. The fact sheet outlines the risks and benefits of receiving that specific vaccine. Find the fact sheets here:

FDA: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#) |
FDA: [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#) |
FDA: [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#)



Ask if you can schedule your recommended future doses of the vaccine with the same provider ahead of time. Getting your follow-up doses on time will help make sure you get the highest level of protection from COVID-19.



The provider should give you a vaccination card or printout that tells you which vaccine product you received, and the date/location of your vaccination. If not, you should ask for one. You can show this card if anyone asks you for proof of vaccination. You can also find a digital version of your COVID-19 immunization card through [myVaccine Record on the myColorado mobile app.](#)

AFTER VACCINATION



If you get a COVID-19 vaccine and you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction after leaving the vaccination site, seek immediate medical care by calling 911.



You may experience some side effects after getting the vaccine. In most cases, side effects like fever or pain where you received the vaccine are normal. Contact your doctor or health care provider:

- If the redness or tenderness where you got the vaccine gets worse after 24 hours.
- If your side effects are worrying you or do not seem to be going away after a few days.



COVID-19 vaccines require multiple doses to work well. Be sure to get your recommended follow-up doses even if you have side effects after the first dose, unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get another dose.



Ask your provider about getting registered with v-safe. V-safe is a free tool for smartphone users. It uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after you get vaccinated. V-safe also reminds you to get a second dose if you need one. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/vsafe.



Remember, it takes time for your body to build protection after any vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines may not protect you until approximately two weeks after your last dose.



Learn more about [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine.](#)