

INFORMATION ON COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CAREGIVERS OF OLDER ADULTS



If you're a caregiver for an older adult, then it's important that you know some [information about COVID-19 vaccines](#) to help inform the older adult you care for. Here are some facts that can help your conversations about COVID-19 vaccine with the older adults in your life.

Vaccines Are Effective

- In medical studies, the FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines were highly effective at preventing COVID-19 and were nearly 100% (99.9%) effective at preventing COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require two shots to get the most protection. The timing between your first and second shot depends on which vaccine you received:
 - You should get your second Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine shot no earlier than 21 days after your first shot.
 - You should get your second Moderna vaccine shot no earlier than 28 days after your first shot.

- You should get your second shot as close to the recommended time interval as possible. For full protection, your two shots need to be from the same vaccine manufacturer. For example, if your first shot was the Moderna vaccine, your second shot should also be the Moderna vaccine.

Vaccine Safety and Side Effects

- In medical studies, scientists evaluated the available COVID-19 vaccines in tens of thousands of volunteers. The vaccines meet FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality.
- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines will undergo the most [careful safety monitoring](#) in U.S. history.
- Like other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects such as pain and swelling in the arm you received the shot, fever, chills, feeling tired, and headaches. This does not mean you have COVID-19. These are normal signs that your body is creating an immune response.
- A small number of people have had a severe allergic reaction called "anaphylaxis" after being vaccinated, but this is extremely rare. If this occurs, vaccine providers have medicines available to effectively and immediately treat the reaction.



- After you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you will be asked to stay for at least 15 minutes so you can be observed for anaphylaxis.

Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

- [Vaccines are being distributed](#) now. At this time, all people age 65 and older in the United States are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.
- As more supplies become available, everyone will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- COVID-19 vaccines are [available for free](#), even for people without insurance.
- Receiving the vaccine will not affect your immigration status.
 - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has clarified that vaccines are available to all individuals regardless of their [immigration status](#).
 - Enforcement activities (investigations) will not be conducted at or near vaccine distribution sites, hospitals, or clinics.
 - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has specified that it will not consider testing, treatment, or preventive care, including vaccines, related to COVID-19 as part of a [public charge](#) inadmissibility determination.
- People can face many barriers to getting a COVID-19 vaccine. For example, they may need help scheduling appointments on the Internet. They may also need a ride to their vaccine appointment or a family member to accompany them.
- Find more information about the distribution of vaccines in your state at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).



Preventive Measures

- Scientists are still learning how well the COVID-19 vaccines prevent you from spreading the virus to others (even if you don't have symptoms) and how long the vaccines protect people.
- That's why even after you're fully vaccinated, you should still continue with basic [preventive measures](#):
 - Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when around other people. If you care for someone who is hearing impaired, consider wearing a mask with a clear panel to make it easier for the person to read your lips.
 - Stay 6 feet (about two arm lengths) apart from people you don't live with.
 - Avoid crowds and indoor places with poor ventilation.
 - Wash your hands often.
 - Clean and disinfect objects you touch a lot.