

Our next step to end the pandemic.

Why are vaccines important?

Vaccines protect us from diseases like measles, mumps, and seasonal flu. They helped stop the spread of other diseases like smallpox and polio.



How do I know a COVID-19 vaccine is safe?

Vaccines must pass tough safety measures before they become available like:



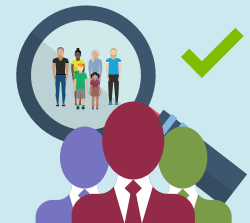
Vaccine trials.



FDA approval.



CDC safety monitoring.



Independent safety monitoring.

Which vaccine can I get?

Vaccine	Primary series	Original booster (monovalent)	Updated booster (bivalent)
Pfizer	6 months or older.	5–11 years.	12 years or older.
Moderna	6 months or older.	5–11 years.	18 years or older.
Novavax	18 years or older.	—	—

FDA limited use of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine because of the very rare risk of blood clots. You may still be eligible to get J&J if you can't get the other vaccines, talk to your healthcare provider.

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COVID-19 Vaccine

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines help your body recognize the virus if you are exposed. When enough people's bodies know how to fight off a virus, the virus can't spread as easily. Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories in public health.

If you've had COVID-19, do you still need vaccine?

Yes. CDC recommends those who had COVID-19 still get fully vaccinated. Studies show those who had COVID-19 can be immune for at least 3 months after infection, but vaccine provides a higher rate of protection and helps stop the spread.

How do COVID-19 vaccines hold up against variants?

- The approved vaccines are still highly effective against hospitalization and death from the current variants.
- Moderna and Pfizer have released updated booster shots that target current variants more directly.
- As more people get vaccine, transmission rates will decrease, reducing the likelihood of variants mutating.

Can you get COVID-19 even after you are fully vaccinated?

Yes. While COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of getting infected, they do not prevent it entirely. As mask mandates have lifted and many people are returning to more crowded events, we are seeing more cases in vaccinated individuals than at any time since the initial vaccine launch. We do know, however, that vaccinated people have less severe disease and are less efficient at spreading disease to others.

We are waiting on data about how well the updated booster doses prevent transmission of the latest variants.

Does COVID-19 stay in your body after you are fully vaccinated?

No. Most COVID-19 vaccines are made from mRNA. Vaccine with mRNA deliver instructions to your cells so your immune system knows how to protect your body against the COVID-19 virus. The mRNA will break down and be flushed out of your system within hours. While mRNA vaccines are new, mRNA technology is not. Healthcare providers have used it for years to treat cancer and other viral diseases. It does not change or interact your DNA in any way.

Do we know if the vaccine is equally safe for all racial and ethnic groups?

Yes. Studies of the authorized vaccines show they are equally safe across all racial, ethnic, age, and gender groups. Participants in the clinical trials reflected the U.S. population. This helped assess broad safety and effectiveness. We will only support and distribute a vaccine that shows safety and effectiveness across all groups.

How is COVID-19 vaccine development different than other vaccines?

The COVID-19 development process is the same as with other vaccines, but some steps are happening at the same time to produce a safe and effective vaccine, faster. For example, the clinical safety trials and vaccine production are happening at the same time so the vaccine is ready and available as soon as we know it's safe and effective. Any vaccines that do not successfully complete clinical trials will be destroyed.

Get more information about these and other steps you can take to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 at tpchd.org/coronavirus.