



COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

FEBRUARY 11th, 2021

When will the COVID-19 vaccine be available? When will I be able to get the vaccine?

There is currently a limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine, but we expect additional supply coming soon. Due to the limited amount of vaccine, certain individuals are offered the vaccine first in order to preserve functionality of society, reduce the extra burden that COVID-19 is having on people facing disparity, and decrease death and serious illness. Based off of these criteria, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and then the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) then took those recommendations to create the first grouping, or currently eligible, of people to be vaccinated. There is not a hard start or stop for each phase. As vaccine supply and the number of vaccinators increase, phases for distribution may overlap.

CURRENTLY eligible populations

- Frontline health care personnel
- Residents and staff in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities
- Police and fire personnel, correctional staff
- Adults ages 65 and over

At this time, the NEXT eligible groups include

- Education and child care
- Individuals enrolled in Medicaid long-term care programs
- Some public-facing essential workers
- Non-frontline essential health care personnel
- Facility staff and residents in congregate living settings

Who is in each phase may change based off of different recommendations. We will update the community as soon as we roll into the next phase. Planning for large scale vaccinations has been in the works for many years, so we are utilizing plans and procedures that we have been developing and practicing. Door County Public Health will be providing vaccine clinics in a drive through format to enhance safety.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine.htm>

Does the COVID-19 vaccine have the virus in it? Will I get the virus if I get the vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccine does **not** contain a live virus and does not carry a risk of causing disease in the vaccinated person. The vaccine teaches the immune system how to recognize COVID-19 and fight it off.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/mrna-vaccine-basics.html>

Will I feel sick from side effects after getting the vaccine?

While our immune system is learning how to recognize COVID-19 and fight it off, it may cause some mild symptoms such as fever. This is normal and is a sign that we are building an immunity to the virus. The side effects from COVID-19 vaccination may feel like flu and might even affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Learn more about what side effects to expect and get helpful tips on how to reduce pain and discomfort after your vaccination:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe even if it came out so quickly?

Like all vaccines, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have been rigorously tested for safety before being authorized for use in the United States. mRNA technology is new, but not unknown. They have been studied for more than a decade. Vaccine approval is driven by science. And we trust that the vaccine is safe. The Pfizer vaccine had to undergo complex clinical trials and review before it was approved for the public. Independent advisory committees to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) review vaccine safety and effectiveness data before any vaccine is approved or allowed for distribution under Emergency Use Authorization, and like with all vaccines, the FDA and CDC will continue to closely monitor the Pfizer vaccine to help ensure any issues are immediately addressed.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>

Will the COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?

The COVID-19 vaccine is mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) and is instructions for how to make a protein. It does not alter DNA or modify genetic makeup in any way. It doesn't enter the nucleus of the cell where DNA is kept. Instead it gives directions and works with the individual's body how to naturally defend against the virus and protect the body, creating an immunity.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>

If I have already had COVID-19 should I still get vaccinated?

It is unknown how long someone is protected from the virus after getting sick and recovering from COVID-19. This natural immunity, or immunity someone gains from having an infection, can vary from person to person. The vaccine should be offered regardless of whether someone has already had been infected with the virus or not.

Those who have had the virus should wait until they are out of their isolation period before obtaining the vaccine. Individuals who have previously received passive antibody therapy or convalescent plasma as part of COVID-19 treatment should wait to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine for at least 90 days. If someone has been exposed to an individual with COVID-19 they should wait to be vaccinated until the end of their quarantine period to avoid exposing health care workers or others at the vaccination site.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

If I obtain both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine do I still have to wear a mask and avoid close contact with others?

Even after obtaining both doses of the vaccine it is important for everyone to continue to use all of the different tools to help stop the pandemic. Including, wearing a mask that covers your mouth and nose, social distancing, avoid large gatherings, and washing your hands often.

Experts need to know more about the vaccine and its protections before we can decide on changing these recommendations, in order to continue to slow and stop the spread of the virus. Other factors also come into play with changing the recommendations including how many people are vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>

If I obtain the COVID-19 vaccination do I still have to quarantine if I come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes. After FDA approves a vaccine it continues to be studied to see how it works in real-world conditions, outside strict settings of clinical trials. For this reason, we need to continue to utilize all of the tools that we have to stop or lower the spread of the virus because we need to make sure the effectiveness of the vaccine will protect people from getting COVID-19 under different real-life conditions.

At this time, due to it being unknown if a person can transmit COVID-19 after being vaccinated, those who have come into close contact with a positive COVID-19 patient should still quarantine, and monitor for symptoms.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html>

Can I take ibuprofen for COVID-19 Vaccine side effects?

Yes. Ibuprofen (or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) may be used to help with post-vaccination symptoms, if medically appropriate. It is not recommended to take before the vaccine to help prevent post-vaccination symptoms. This is because we do not have enough information on the impact of these types of medications and the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine-induced antibody response at this time. So please only use as needed.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

COVID-19 Variant

COVID-19 variant strain has been found in Wisconsin by WI DHS laboratory partners. The strain was first detected in Wisconsin on January 12, 2021. Experts believe that this new strain is able to spread more rapidly and easily than the original strain of SARS-CoV2. There has been some evidence that has been showing the new strain may cause increased risk of death. With these findings, it is important that we continue to social distance, mask, stay home, wash our hands, and get vaccinated as soon as we are able, to stop the spread of the virus.

All viruses change through mutations, including the virus that causes COVID-10, new variants of the virus are expected to happen over time. Fortunately, we are able to prevent the virus from mutating and replicating, by using all the tools that we have to stop the spread.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/02092021.htm>