



DOOR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

APRIL 13th, 2021

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

As of April 5, 2021, everyone who is 16 and older that lives, studies or works in the state of Wisconsin is eligible for Pfizer. Those who are 18 and older are eligible for Moderna.

For more information on who is eligible for the vaccine, visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-about.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?

At this time, we don't know how long the "natural" immunity, or when you have already had the virus, lasts. We also don't know the risks of re-infection of the virus. It may still benefit someone who has already had the virus to get a COVID-19 vaccine, and it is generally advised to do so. Those who have had the virus should wait until they are out of their isolation period before obtaining the vaccine.

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

Do I need to quarantine after exposure if I have been fully vaccinated?

If you have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (received second dose in a two-dose series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine) and were in close contact with someone with COVID-19, you do not have to quarantine, if you meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Your exposure to someone with COVID-19 happened at least two weeks after receiving the last dose of your vaccine series.
- You have not had any symptoms of COVID-19 since your last close contact.

Continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after your last close contact. If you develop any symptoms of COVID-19, isolate from others, contact your health care provider, and get tested.

Note: New quarantine exemptions apply to workers in non-health care settings, but do not apply to patients receiving inpatient care in a health care setting, residents of long-term care facilities, or residents of non-health care congregate settings (such as correctional and detention facilities or group homes). Patients and residents in these settings should continue to quarantine for 14 days after the date of last exposure.

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

I got my first dose of a two-dose series, but haven't completed my vaccine series. I have since been in close contact with someone with COVID-19. Do I need to quarantine?

Yes. If you have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you still need to quarantine. This means you have gotten both doses of vaccine AND it has been at least two weeks since your last dose. This is because full protection from the vaccine kicks in about two weeks after you complete your vaccine series.

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

Am I able to choose which brand of vaccine I want? Which brand is better?

There are currently two COVID-19 vaccines available that have been FDA approved. Both Pfizer and Moderna require two shots for full protection.

They are both very effective. Experts do not recommend any vaccine over another. The best vaccine you can get is the one that you can get a hold of first, and getting vaccinated earlier, sooner rather than later, protects us from getting sick ourselves and also our community.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines visit: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-faq.htm>

Why is Johnson and Johnson no longer available?

The CDC announced that they and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) are reviewing data involving six reported U.S. cases of a rare and severe type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. While the adverse events appear to be extremely rare, the recommendation is to pause the use of this vaccine out of an abundance of caution, with a focus on safety. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not included in this and are not associated with these concerns or investigation.

The joint statement provided by the CDC and FDA can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/.../releases/2021/s0413-JJ-vaccine.html>

Should I do anything if I already got Johnson and Johnson?

People who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should monitor for the following symptoms within the three weeks following their vaccination: severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath. Symptoms associated with these severe events have occurred six to 13 days after vaccine receipt. Contact your health care provider and use the [v-safe program](#) (link is external) to report your symptoms.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0413-JJ-vaccine.html>

Does this affect Pfizer or Moderna at all?

No. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not included in this and are not associated with these concerns or investigation.

The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines continue to remain extremely safe vaccines. DHS encourages everyone eligible to get the vaccine to continue with their vaccination, especially in light of variants. Wisconsin continues to have a good supply of these vaccines; 96% of the doses administered in the state have been Pfizer and Moderna

What can I do after I am fully vaccinated?

People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, meaning it has been two weeks or longer since they have finished their vaccine series, can engage in some social situations. These include:

- Visiting with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Visiting with unvaccinated people from a single household who are all at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease, indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refraining from quarantine and testing following a known exposure, if asymptomatic.
- Travel without quarantining after travel.

It continues to be important that fully vaccinated people follow [public health best practices](#) in public spaces. This includes wearing a mask and physically distancing. Fully vaccinated people should also continue these practices when visiting unvaccinated [people who are at an increased risk](#) (link is external) for severe COVID-19 disease.

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

Should I still mask and distance even though I am fully vaccinated?

Yes, Vaccines are just one tool we have to stop the spread of COVID-19. Stopping the spread requires all the tools we have available.

It continues to be important that fully vaccinated people follow public health best practices in public spaces. This includes wearing a mask and physically distancing. Fully vaccinated people should also continue these practices when visiting unvaccinated people who are at an increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.

It is recommended that everyone, even those fully vaccinated, avoid medium and large gatherings.

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