



DOOR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

AUGUST 23, 2021

Who is eligible to receive a vaccine?

Everyone who is 12 and older is eligible for Pfizer. Those who are 18 and older are eligible for Moderna or Johnson and Johnson

<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?

As of August 23, 2021, Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, has been approved by the FDA for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older.

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>

The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

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 individuals 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, for fully vaccinated individuals, do 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 three COVID-19 vaccines that have been FDA approved. Both Pfizer and Moderna require a two shots for full protection, while Johnson&Johnson requires one.

They all are effective, and have demonstrated between 65-95% efficacy. 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. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-faq.htm>

Are additional doses recommended?

Additional vaccine doses are recommended for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. Individuals with specific medical conditions or receiving medical treatments that cause them to be moderately to severely immunocompromised are recommended to get an additional dose of Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

This includes people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood.
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system.
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system.
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection.
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, or other drugs that may suppress your immune response.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/081821.htm>

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.

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.

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