

Vaccine Journey

Scientists work to understand the virus and develop a vaccine that will protect you.



Clinical Trial Process

Scientists first gather information while researching and developing the vaccine and share their findings with the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to:

- Ensure the data, tests and manufacturing processes are safe and accurate.
- Test the quality and safety of the ingredients.
- Approve or deny advancement into Phase I.

Many researchers from the private sector and government review the data throughout this process to make sure it's reliable and that the proper steps are followed. Eventually, promising vaccines are approved and authorized by medical and public health experts.

PHASE I

This entire step is focused on safety. Once initial findings are reviewed by the FDA, 20-100 healthy volunteers are the first to receive the new vaccine.

PHASE II

In randomized-control studies, different doses are tested on hundreds of participants with varying health and demographic profiles. Safety information on common short-term side effects and risks, information about the relationship between the dose administered and the immune response, and insights on the vaccine effectiveness are gathered.

PHASE III

With help from hundreds or thousands of volunteers, this phase advances understanding related to safety, effectiveness and common side effects.

Manufacturing



- Millions of highly skilled workers across the U.S. help produce the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Once packed and ready for transportation, companies and government agencies work to deliver vaccines to states.



Allocation

Federal, state and local governments prioritize and determine how to distribute vaccines.

Getting your Vaccine



When eligible, healthcare workers administer your vaccine and make sure you're monitored and protected during the process.

- Some vaccines require 2 doses, while others only require 1.
- Vaccines give your body instructions on how to fight the virus if you ever encounter it in the future. They do not contain and cannot make you test positive for COVID-19.
- When your immune system starts working, it can often cause mild-to-moderate symptoms like fever, headache, chills, etc. These completely normal symptoms simply mean the vaccine is working and typically resolve within 1-2 days.



After the Vaccine

The vaccines continue to be monitored by multiple groups, like the FDA and CDC, for any adverse effects. Once you are vaccinated, you are protected against the bad outcomes associated with the virus.

- There is a chance you might still get COVID-19, but researchers believe the vaccine will greatly reduce or limit your symptoms, help prevent infection and protect you from severe cases.
- Even after you are completely vaccinated, it is important to continue following physical distancing and masking recommendations and washing your hands frequently. These habits continue to protect you, your loved ones and others.